Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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Guam reports 366th COVID-19-related death; 95 new cases. PAGE 2

Peter: No evidence that CPA at risk with its federal grantors. PAGE 3

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SUMMER READING PROGRAM
Participants of the "Children's Summer Reading Program" pose for a photo at the library sign with 4-H Club volunteers and the library volunteers and staff yesterday after the first day and session of the program.
Story on Page 4
LEIGH GASES

Torres seeks to junk OAG case

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Torres

The defense in the criminal case against Gov. Ralph DLG Torres has filed a motion to dismiss the case in its entirety, claiming selective and vindictive prosecution.

Torres, through his lawyers, Viola Alepuyo and Matthew Holley, filed a motion with Superior Court judge pro tem Alberto Tolentino yesterday,
See TORRES on Page 4

Corrections Academy begins

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

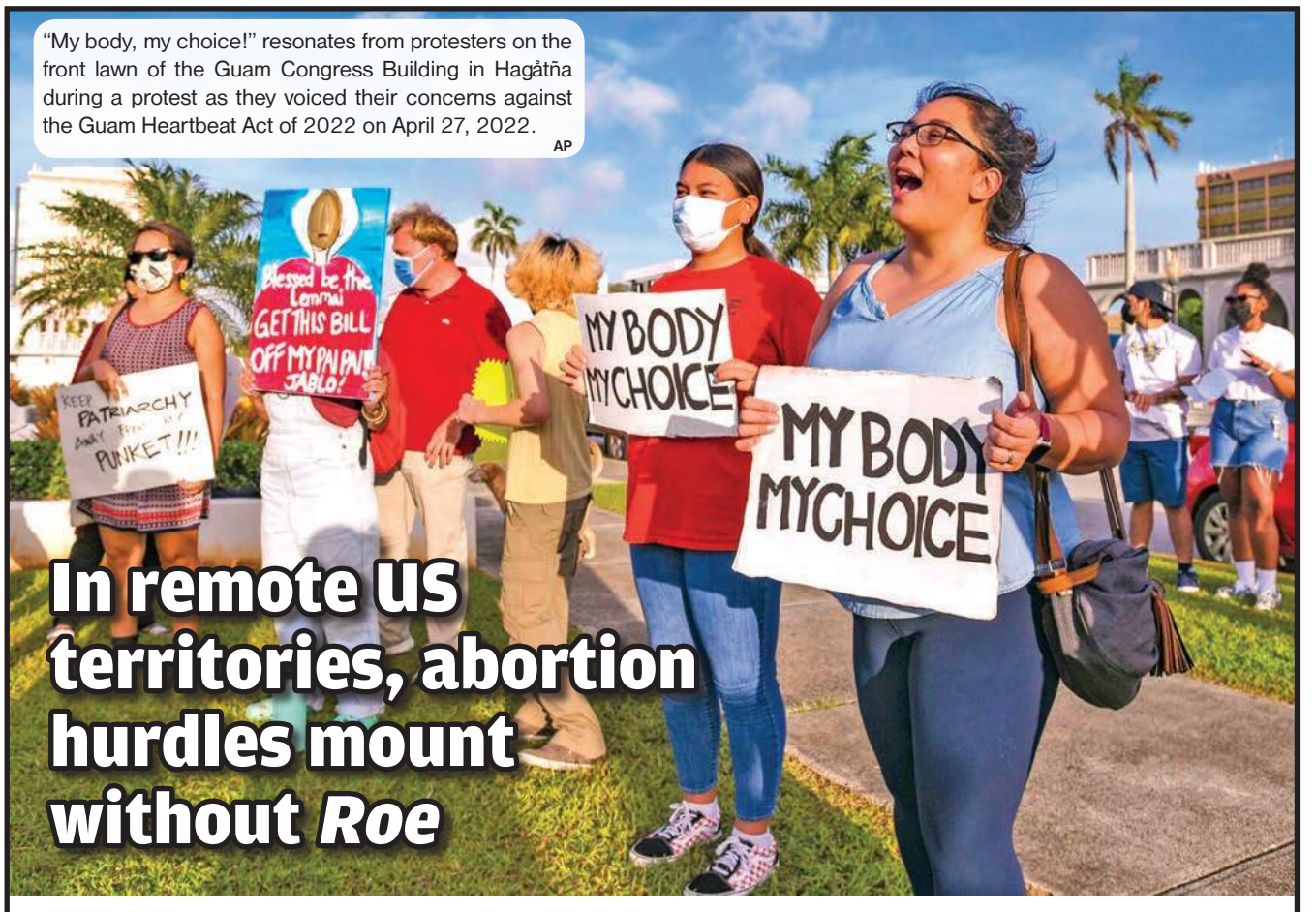
COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:
Red: Least safe
Orange
Yellow
Blue
Green: Safest
Source: Office of the Governor

The Department of Corrections has officially launched its 9th Cycle Corrections Academy with a total of 39 cadets that are tentatively set to graduate in September.

According to Corrections Commissioner Wally Villagomez, the 39 cadets are currently undergoing intensive physical and educational training, The academy officially begun last May 31.

The 39 cadets, nine of whom are women, went through a selection process,
See ACADEMY on Page 4


Blessed be the Lemmai
GET THIS BILL OFF MY PALANI JABLO!
KEEP PATRIARCHY AWAY FROM MY PUNKET!!!
MY BODY MY CHOICE
MY BODY MY CHOICE
"My body, my choice!" resonates from protesters on the front lawn of the Guam Congress Building in Hagåtña during a protest as they voiced their concerns against the Guam Heartbeat Act of 2022 on April 27, 2022.
AP

In remote US territories, abortion hurdles mount without *Roe*

By AUDREY McAVOY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

HONOLULU (AP)—Women from the remote U.S. territories of Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands will likely have to travel farther than other Americans to terminate a pregnancy if the Supreme Court overturns a precedent that established a national right to abortion in the United States.

Hawaii is the closest U.S.
See US on Page 4

INSIDE

BUSINESS
Opening Drift Bottle Cafe in Garapan early this year was a dream come true for Tony.
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WORLD
Russia has begun turning over the bodies of Ukrainian fighters killed in Azovstal.
PAGE 13

GOOD HOUSEKEEPING
When used correctly, track lighting highlights a room's best features and spotlights pieces of art.
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Local

Guam reports 366th COVID-19-related death; 95 new cases

Guam Joint Information Center reported yesterday the U.S. territory's 366th COVID-19-related fatality.

According to the JIC news release, Guam's latest COVID-19-related fatality occurred at the Guam Memorial Hospital on June 7, 2022. The patient was a 74-year-old female, fully vaccinated without a booster, with underlying health conditions, who tested positive on May 27.

"Loss and sadness have yet to cease, and to her family and friends, we send our thoughts and prayers to you in your time of mourning," said Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero om the JIC statement. "While we may be fatigued in this fight, we must continue to do our part to protect ourselves and those we love. For our elderly and sick, please continue to wear your mask and to all our community members, please stay up-to-date with your vaccinations to ensure the optimum protection from this virus."

The day before, JIC reported Guam's 365th COVID-19-related fatality: a 49-year-old male, vaccinated with one booster, with underlying health conditions, who tested positive on May 8. He died at GMH on June 4, 2022.

To date, there have been a total of 49,473 officially reported cases in Guam, 365 deaths, 371 cases in active isolation, and 48,737 not in active isolation. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

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SNILD allocates $430K from IPI to mayor's office, Kagman project

The Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation passed Friday a local bill that would appropriate a total of $430,000 in unobligated funds collected from the casino license fee paid by Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC.

Authored by Rep. Corina L. Magofna (D-Saipan), House Local Bill 22-31 appropriates $350,000 in unobligated funds to the Mayor of Saipan for his office's operations. The bill also appropriates the remaining $80,000 of such funds for the ongoing Kagman Watershed project.

Magofna stated in the legislation that Gov. Ralph DLG Torres line-item vetoed House Local Bill 22-27, S1, D1, last April 14, unobligating funds that had been appropriated to the Saipan Mayor's Office and for the ongoing Kagman Watershed Project.

The intent of the legislation is to appropriate the $430,000 in unobligated funds from the fees collected from IPI pursuant to Public Law 20-10 (casino license fee).

The Saipan mayor or his designee is the expenditure authority of the $350,000, while the Department of Public Lands and Natural Resources secretary is the expenditure authority of the $80,000. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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Peter: No evidence that CPA at risk with its federal grantors

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Public Auditor Kina B. Peter said Monday that they have not received any evidence that the Commonwealth Ports Authority is at financial or operational risk with its federal grantors as it relates to Office of the Public Auditor's 1% fee.

Peter stated this at the House of Representatives Ways and Means Committee meeting regarding House Bill 22-102, where OPA strongly opposed the legislation for the various reasons that she said she had already presented in her prior House communication letter.

Authored by House Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan) and supported by several other representatives, H.B. 22-102 would exempt public corporations and autonomous agencies from paying the 1% OPA fee. Villagomez stated in the legislation that the exemption provides financial relief to the autonomous agencies and public corporations that do not utilize the audit services of the OPA in the first place.

Villagomez said an additional concern for CPA is that the OPA fee, as a general charge imposed upon CPA annually, constitutes revenue diversion from CPA that would violate federal entitlement or discretionary grant conditions or jeopardize such grants for airport and seaport improvements.

At Monday's Ways and Means Committee meeting, Peter requested that this bill be retracted and allow OPA, the Finance secretary, and all the other various agencies to resolve paid fees without acting on any legislation that would hamper OPA's ability to operate with great independence and performance duties with the appropriate funding source.

"In conclusion, I cannot emphasize enough how detrimental the consequences of House Bill 22-102 will be. Please take the appropriate course of action that benefits the greater CNMI government and agencies rather than solving for selective cause or entity," she said.

The public auditor said all entity and agency leaders are accountable to comply with CNMI laws.

Peter reiterated that the CNMI government has been receiving an unprecedented amount of federal money and the demands for OPA services have never been higher.

"Allow OPA as a regulatory agency of the CNMI to function and exist without the continued threat of its funding and independence," she said.

In response to Rep. Christina Sablan's (D-Saipan) question, Peter acknowledged reviewing the May 16, 2022, letter to CPA by Gordon Wong, who is the Federal Aviation Administration airport district office manager overseeing the CNMI.

Peter said there's nothing in writing that has indicated that there's been such non-compliance on the part of CPA. She said Wong's letter, as it reads, indicates the 1% OPA fee may be considered revenue diversion and that airport revenue must be used for operations, maintenance and capital improvements of CPA's airports. Wong stated that revenue diversion could lead to CPA being deemed non-compliant and lead to sanctions prescribed by the Code of Federal Regulations, which relates to audit requirements.

Peter pointed out that there's nothing in writing nor has OPA been called upon or requested to provide feedback on its views of OPA's 1% fee.

"So again this letter is not, I don't see it as a firm communication of such non-compliance," she said.

Peter, however, stated that she looks forward to a meeting with FAA to help clarify the intended communication of Wong's letter.

Senate President Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian) and Speaker Villagomez arranged a meeting for yesterday, Tuesday, with CPA and FAA representatives to discuss FAA's issue with OPA's 1% fee with respect to CPA's airports.

Sablan said she would agree with Peter's reading of Wong's letter that it didn't seem immediately clear or definitive to her (Sablan) either. Sablan, however, said she is interested in hearing from both CPA and FAA as well.

Peter said OPA, the Finance secretary, the CPA board chair, CPA executive director, and CPA controller all met Thursday to further discuss the underlying issues driving the proposed legislation.

She said CPA has claims that the driving force for the legislation is due to FAA's concerns regarding OPA's 1% fee, and potential non-compliance with federal requirements, specifically with regards to the airport revenue diversion. The public auditor said it was ultimately agreed that a meeting with the FAA is warranted as it would allow OPA, the Finance secretary, CPA, and FAA to resolve concerns raised by each party.

OPA is of the position that the 1% OPA fee is an allowable costs and should not result in non-compliance with FAA's regulation. Peter said FAA's Federal Register section B permitted uses of airport revenue and subsection B3 allows for the allocation of indirect costs.

She said under FAA policy, a portion of the general cost of government such as cost of the legislative branch and executive offices may be allocated to the airport as an indirect cost and under a cost allocation plan as long as it is not paying a disproportionate share of costs.

Peter said their view is that the OPA's 1% fee, which amounts to approximately $150,000 to $200,000 per year, which includes the seaport revenue is not disproportionate to CPA's costs.

Further, she said, in the most recent CPA audit report on internal control and compliance, it was noted that there have not been any federal findings associated with OPA's 1% fees.

"In fact, it has never been noted on any prior audits," Peter said.

At the same meeting Monday, CPA chair Kimberlyn King-Hinds said Peter is correct in saying that the issue of revenue diversion has not been cited as a finding in CPA's audits.

"It has not been and the reason for that is because we have not been paying that. So if you're not paying it, it's not a finding. So it doesn't violate," King-Hinds said.

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Torres confident arrivals will be smooth for all participants of Pacific Mini Games

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres is confident that arrivals at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport will be smooth for the athletes from different countries and territories participating in the Pacific Mini Games 2022.

In response to questions during a radio press briefing last said Friday, Torres commended U.S. Customs and Border Protection CNMI Ports director Jeff Hofschneider for the assistance he has given the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games.

The Pacific Mini Games will be held on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota on June 17 to 25, 2022. Twenty-countries and territories will participate in nine sports.

Torres said Hofschneider has been helping with visa requests, travel recommendations, and the arrivals process at the airport for all participants.

"I know that in the beginning we're going to have some hiccups. But as we fix those barriers and those hiccups, I believe that the following flights will be smoother than the first and second one," the governor said.

He said they are preparing on all angles—from the airport down to the facilities— to make sure that the track and field, baseball field, and other facilities are ready. Torres said they are working on smooth transition for all athletes and coaches that are participating.

"We are gearing up for this and we look forward to their arrivals," he said.

The governor said the CNMI government does have financial commitments in order for this Pacific Mini Games to move forward.

Torres said they know how important the event is for athletes here in the Marianas.

"This is our first time that the Pacific Mini Games to be held here. So we have the financial obligation and we have met the financial obligation. And we foresee completing our financial obligations," he said.

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JKPL starts its annual 'Children's Summer Reading Program'

By LEIGH GASES
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CORRESPONDENT

The two-week Summer Reading Program of the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library launched yesterday, June 7, and will last until June 17, with a total of 80 to 100 children participating in its first day.

The theme for this year's program is "Oceans of Possibilities" and coincides with the month of June as CNMI Ocean Month, in which the participants will explore the animal kingdom.

Program activities consist of participants reading books; Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math, or STEAM activities; reading logs; arts and crafts; computer literacy classes; and listening to guest speakers who will talk about different topics, which include preserving the ocean and preserving and protecting natural resources, and much more.

The children were also given an expansive tour of the different functions and aspects of the library, such as the front circulation for borrowing and returning books, the computer area where they are exposed to different computer classes and virtual learning programs, the Pacific Collection where they are able to learn about the history and culture of the NMI, and the young adult section, to name a few.

Along with the activities, the participants are able to win prizes like gift certificates, books, back-to-school supplies, toys, and more.

The morning program runs from 8:30am to 11:30am for children 6 to 8 years old and breakfast is provided. The afternoon session is from 12:30 to 3pm for children 9 to 12 years old and lunch is provided. JKPL is in partnership with the 4-H Club from the Northern Marianas College and some of the 4-H campers are participating in the program as well.

Beth Demapan, technical services librarian for JKPL, said, "It's not all just sitting down. We want them to move around the library and ask questions. … We also have our field trip at the 500 Sails at the Guma Sakman, so before we do that we will go to the Pacific Collection of the library and learn and read up about it."

"We have a lot of young adult books because there's lots of teens that come into the program. So we show them how to find Harry Potter. …We show them the fiction corner and do a scavenger hunt if they can find the books," she added.

Demapan said they welcome sponsors who may want to make a donation or any in-kind donations such as gift certificates that can be awarded to participants.

Demapan thanked the Friends of the Library and their many sponsors "Our sponsors help make this possible," she added.

Separately, the Tinian public library will start its summer reading program this week and the public library on Rota will begin their program in July. which will be announced on their social media platforms.

After the program, the Bookmobile will be going to underserved communities to expose them to what went on in the library.

US

From Page 1

state where abortion is legal under local law. Even so, Honolulu is 3,800 miles (6,100 kilometers) away—about 50% farther than Boston is from Los Angeles.

"For a lot of people who are seeking abortion care, it might as well be on the moon," said Vanessa L. Williams, an attorney who is active with the group Guam People for Choice.

It's already difficult to get an abortion in Guam, a small, heavily Catholic island of about 170,000 people south of Japan.

The last physician who performed surgical abortions there retired in 2018. Two Guam-licensed doctors who live in Hawaii see patients virtually and mail them pills for medication abortions. But this alternative is available only until 11 weeks gestation.

Now there's a possibility even this limited telehealth option will disappear.

A recently leaked draft opinion indicated the Supreme Court could overturn the landmark *Roe v. Wade* decision and allow individual states to ban abortion. About half of them would likely do so, abortion rights advocates say. Oklahoma got a head start last week when its governor signed a measure prohibiting all abortions with few exceptions.

All three U.S. territories in the Pacific—Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, and American Samoa—also have the potential to adopt prohibitions, according to a 2019 report by the Center for Reproductive Rights. None have legal protections for abortion, and they could revive old abortion bans or enact new ones, the report said.

Traveling to the nearest states where abortion is allowed—Hawaii or the U.S. West Coast—would be prohibitive for many women.

A nonstop flight from Guam to Honolulu takes nearly eight hours. Only one commercial airline flies the route. A recent online search showed the cheapest tickets going for $1,500 roundtrip in late May.

Williams said many Guam residents need time off work, a hotel room and a rental car to travel for an abortion, adding more costs.

Hawaii legalized abortion in 1970, three years before *Roe*. The state today allows abortion until a fetus would be viable outside the womb. After that, it's legal if a patient's life or health is in danger.

Flying to a country in Asia that allows abortion would be quicker, but several reproductive rights advocates on Guam said they hadn't heard of anyone doing that. For one, it would require a passport, which many don't have, said Kiana Yabut of the group Famalao'an Rights.

Without *Roe*, Guam could revert to an abortion ban dating to 1990. The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled the law unconstitutional in 1992, but it has never been repealed.

James Canto, Guam deputy attorney general, agreed under questioning by a Guam senator this month that existing abortion laws in various states and territories would "be the law of the land" if *Roe* was overturned.

But Alexa Kolbi-Molinas, deputy director of the reproductive freedom project at the American Civil Liberties Union, said the 9th Circuit permanently enjoined the 1990 law, meaning Guam's attorney general would have to ask the local U.S. District Court to lift an injunction to begin enforcing it.

The 32-year-old statute made it a felony for a doctor to perform the procedure except to save a woman's life or prevent grave danger to her health, as certified by two independent physicians, or to end an ectopic pregnancy, which is a dangerous abnormal pregnancy that develops outside the uterus.

It made it a misdemeanor for a woman to have an abortion, or for anyone to ask or advise her to have one.

The 21-member unicameral Legislature unanimously approved the ban after then-Archbishop Anthony Apuron threatened in a television interview to excommunicate any Catholic senator who voted against it. All but one of the senators was Catholic, but most senators said they were unaware of the threat.

Guam's Legislature has been considering additional measures to restrict abortion. This month it held hearings on a bill modeled after a new Texas law that bans abortion once cardiac activity is detected, usually around six weeks. The Texas law, which has withstood legal challenges so far, leaves enforcement up to private citizens through lawsuits instead of criminal prosecutions.

Peter Srgo, a Guam attorney who drafted the measure, said enacting it would remove speculation about whether Guam would prohibit abortions if *Roe* is overturned.

"So take your pick. What do you want? Because for me, either way, I win. Either way, the people win. Either way, the pro-life movement is going to have a major victory no matter what," he said.

The possibility that abortion may become less accessible on Guam has spurred some nonprofits to come together to increase their support for pregnant women in need, said Mona McManus, executive director of the island's Safe Haven Pregnancy Center.

Her organization, which opposes abortion, provides free pregnancy tests, prenatal and parenting classes and information on adoption and abortion. It recently started a "wrap-around service group" with other nonprofits that can help secure housing, foster care for teen mothers, adoption and other services.

Jayne Flores, director of the Bureau of Women's Affairs, a Guam government agency, believes residents would still have access to medication abortions from off-island if *Roe* is overturned. But she wonders whether the Legislature might outlaw that too.

"At what point do you start looking in people's mail?" she said.

In the Atlantic, lawmakers in the U.S. territory of Puerto Rico are considering legislation that would prohibit abortions starting at 22 weeks, or when a doctor determines that a fetus is viable, with the sole exception being if a woman's life is in danger. That is roughly in line with most U.S. state laws, though more limiting than Puerto Rico's current status, which sets no term limit.

ACADEMY

From Page 1

Villagomez said.

Through a partnership with Northern Marianas College, this year's cadets will graduate with 40 college credits from NMC and will also have the opportunity to earn an associate degree if they choose to, Villagomez said.

The last time the department had an academy was back in 2019, he added.

Villagomez said the Corrections Academy will run for about three to four months, with a tentative graduation set for the first week of September.

Aside from DOC, the Saipan Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting is set to host its own academy sometime in July.

According to Phillip Aldan, assistant chief for ARFF, the department is currently looking for four officers out of the upcoming seven-month-long academy. These officers are expected to receive national certification as Firefighter 1 Firefighter 2, Airport Firefighter, Firefighter driver, and first responder.

Aldan said ARFF has already received around 40 applications but only 31 have successfully passed the physical fitness requirement to enter the academy.

"We started with 40 applicants and now we're down to 31 with an expected launch date in July. The academy is expected to conclude sometime in October," he said.

Aldan said this academy will heavily focus on the academics as officers are expected to gain national certification in order to join the force.

"The academy will be heavy academics. Like I said, all the certifications are national so the standards are a bit higher. It's going to be focused on academics and there's also going to be a lot of physical fitness," Aldan said.

TORRES

From Page 1

seeking the dismissal of the criminal case against him and alleging that the Office of the Attorney General is selectively and vindictively prosecuting him.

According to the motion for dismissal, Torres' lawyers claim that the prosecution is being selective because the OAG has chosen not to prosecute similarly situated individuals.

"Since the civil statute on travel, Public Law 15-86, was enacted in September 2007, there has been no Commonwealth elected official, employee, or board member ever charged civilly or criminally for violating this provision. The OAG did not charge the numerous government officials, [including Torres'] opponent Lt. Gov. Arnold Palacios, AG Ed Manibusan, former attorney general J.P. San Nicolas, to name a few, who also flew on premium class travel. The OAG has chosen not to pursue any claims against a single other similarly situated government official relating to premium class travel. There has been preferential treatment between Gov. Torres and other officials," the defense stated.

In addition, Torres' lawyers argue that the information filed against Torres in itself provides evidence of selective prosecution.

"The selective nature of Gov. Torres' prosecution is particularly evident in that he is charged with 'causing premium class travel.' Gov. Torres did not cause his premium class travel. His TAs were submitted, and approved by the secretary of Finance and the lieutenant governor and purchased by a travel agent. By the OAG's theory, any one of the individuals who participated in 'causing' premium class travel is in violation of 1 CMC 7407(f). Yet Gov. Torres stands alone in this prosecution while numerous individuals go uncharged," the motion states.

Torres' lawyers also claim that Torres was charged not because of any involvement in criminal conduct, but rather because of the political climate and the OAG's desire to punish him for criticizing some members of the House of Representatives' pursuit of the premium class travel.

"The information constitutes selective prosecution and must be dismissed," the motion said.

The lawyers also argued that the information filed against Torres was ultimately vindictively designed to prevent the defendant from running in the upcoming election.

"This is vindictively designed to prevent the governor from running [for] office in this election and undermine his free speech. The OAG significantly departed from its manual and travel policy, the OAG's advice to the Travel Committee, and its legal opinion to Gov. Torres relating to the legislative subpoena. The timing of the information, by itself, can amount to vindictive prosecution," the lawyers said.

"The AG has engaged in dilatory tactics, gamesmanship, and has been politically influenced in his prosecutorial powers—all amounting to vindictive prosecution. Accordingly, this case must be dismissed," the lawyers added.

After making their arguments, Torres' lawyers also proposed an alternative to dismissal—for the court to grant his request for discovery into the decision to charge him.

The discovery that Torres is requesting includes reasons for the OAG's prosecutorial decisions, including whether it initially decided not to prosecute, and the reasons for deciding to prosecute this case over four years after the initial premium class travel in 2018; any communication between any member of the OAG, and any member of the House of Representatives relating to the investigation that resulted in the criminal charges against him; and names of other individuals investigated for premium class travel; among other things.

Camacho opposes amending charges to include strangulation

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
Kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Rep. Vicente Camacho (D-Saipan) has opposed the amended charges filed against him, specifically the addition of aggravated assault and battery and strangulation, saying it would transform the case into a felony.

Camacho, through his lawyer, Michael White, has filed a memorandum in opposition of the prosecution's recent motion to amend the complaint filed against him to include aggravated assault and battery and strangulation, which would essentially turn the offense into a felony instead of a misdemeanor.

Camacho

According to White, the prosecution's request to amend the charges against Camacho is impermissible because the proposed amendment from misdemeanor assault and battery to felony aggravated assault and battery is essentially not an amendment but rather an additional offense.

"Amendment of a criminal information is governed by Rule 7(e) of the Rules of Criminal Procedure. That rule provides, in pertinent part: 'The court may permit an information to be amended at any time before verdict or finding if no additional or different offense is charged.' The charge of felony aggravated assault and battery, as set forth in count I of the proposed amended information, is different from the original charge of misdemeanor assault and battery. The charge of strangulation, as set forth in count II of the proposed amended information, is an additional offense not charged in the initial information. Accordingly, the proposed amendment is impermissible, and the Commonwealth's request to amend the information must be denied," he said.

White also argued that the proposed addition of strangulation cannot succeed as a matter of law.

"Count II of the proposed amended information would charge defendant Camacho with strangulation, in violation of 6 CMC $1468(a)(1). That provision is actually a definition. The crime of strangulation is defined in 81468(b) as follows: 'Any person who willfully and unlawfully strangles or attempts to strangle a household member is guilty of a felony punishable by imprisonment for not more than seven years.' In order to obtain a conviction under 6 CMC $1468(b), the Commonwealth would have to prove that defendant Camacho strangled or attempted to strangle a household member. The proposed charge must fail, because defendant Camacho and the alleged victim are not household members" White explained.

White said the Commonwealth also suggests that Camacho and the alleged victim fall within "adults or minors who are related to each other up to the fourth degree of consanguinity" as defined by the charge. However, White states, in order for there to be consanguinity, there must be a blood relationship.

"Wikipedia defines consanguinity as 'the characteristic of having a kinship with another person (being descended from a common ancestor).' The Commonwealth does not allege, and in fact simply cannot prove [this] because it is not true, that Camacho and the alleged victim have a common ancestor, at least within the fourth degree of consanguinity." the lawyer said.

So, White, said, because the crime detailed requires the government to prove that Camacho strangled or attempted to strangle a household member, and Camacho and the alleged victim are not household members, the Commonwealth is unable to prove its case under any circumstances.

"In summary, the Commonwealth is precluded from amending count I and adding count II of the proposed amended information, because the government failed to file the amendment to within the time proscribed by the case management order, and because such amendments are precluded by Rule 7(e). Additionally, the government has failed to allege, and simply cannot prove, that Camacho strangled or attempted to strangle a household member, which is a prerequisite for a conviction under count II of the proposed amended information," he said.

MHS WINS BUS STOP BEAUTIFICATION

Marianas High School has taken the top spot in the Governor's Council of Economic Advisers' Marianas Village Pride Adopt-A-Bus Stop beautification competition. MHS placed first in the school category, winning a $1,000 store credit for sports equipment from the AllStar Sporting Goods. The school's staff and students enhanced the Commissioner Joaquin S. Tudela Community Park's bus stop in San Vicente on April 8.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS | OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT PROGRAM
JUAN A. SABLAN BUILDING | CALLER BOX 10007 | SAIPAN, MP 96950 | 670.664.2417 | INFO@HM.GOV.MP

INVITATION FOR BID
HOPE Recovery Center Typhoon Shutters Project
ITB22-GOV-42200109

The Office of the Governor, Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), through the Governor's Authorized Representative (collectively, "Commonwealth"), is soliciting sealed bids for the supply and installation of typhoon shutters at the HOPE Recovery Center in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The ITB package will be available from the Office of the Governor, HMGP Office, Juan A. Sablan Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan MP 96950 starting **May 26, 2022**, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on Government observed holidays upon presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CNMI Treasurer by cash or credit in the amount of $50.00 for one ITB package set.

All interested bidders must include an Insurer Certification Clearance (ICC) in their bid package to bid on this project. The ICC should be obtained at the Department of Commerce, Office of the Insurance Commissioner, Pohnpei Way, Capitol Hill, Saipan MP 96950. Bidding procedures shall fully comply with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, as revised through May 24, 2001, and with the Northern Mariana Islands Administrative Code (NMIAC) §70-30-3-725 Gratuities and Kickbacks and §70.30.3-730 Prohibition Against Contingent Fees. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor, and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the CNMI.

There will be a pre-bid meeting for this project on **June 10, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. ChST at the HOPE Recovery Center located in Marpi, Saipan**. Questions or requests for clarification shall be submitted in writing to Ms. Leona Deleon Guerrero, Program Manager, via email at ldlguerrero@omb.gov.mp no later than **June 22, 2022**. Responses to questions or clarification will be shared with all prospective bidders.

Sealed bids must be marked **"ITB22-GOV-42200109 HOPE Recovery Center Typhoon Shutters Project"**. One original and three copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement Services, 1st Floor Horiguchi Building, Kopa Di Oru Street, Garapan, Saipan MP 96950, no later than **9:30 a.m. ChST July 8, 2022.** Bidders outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days to receive their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement Services no later than **9:30 a.m. ChST July 8, 2022**, must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515 or via email to bidintent@dof.gov.mp. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **July 8, 2022**, and mailed to the Director of Procurement Services P.O. BOX 510008 CK, Saipan MP 96950 and the bid documents must be received no later than **July 20, 2022**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be a cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly open and read at the Division of Procurement Services, 1st Floor Horiguchi Building, Kopa Di Oru Street, Garapan, Saipan, MP 96950, at **9:30 a.m. ChST, July 22, 2022**. However, if no notices of intent to bid are received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be open and read at **9:30 a.m. ChST, July 8, 2022.**

Bids higher than Twenty-five Thousand Dollars ($25,000.00), bid security of fifteen percent (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the proposal. Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashier's check, or other forms acceptable to the Government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety satisfactory to the Attorney General. Checks must be made payable to the **CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the cheque: "Credit Account No. 44660"**. If a bid bond is submitted, it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 70-30.3-245. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, **each equal to 100%** of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00.

Before the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:
a) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has the authority to issue a bond in the CNMI, and
b) A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceeds the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the Procurement Services Director, to substitute an acceptable bond before executing a contract. Acceptable assets are only 1) Cash, 2) U.S. Government Securities, 3) Stocks and Bonds traded on U.S. Security Exchange, 4) Real property owned in fee simple in the U.S.; and 5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completing this project is 180 calendar days upon issuing a Notice to Proceed. The daily amount of liquidated damages shall be $100.00/day.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the CNMI.

The Government reserves the right to reject any proposals, in whole or in part, and to waive any imperfection in a proposal if in the best interest of the CNMI. All bids shall become the property of the CNMI government.

Patrick C. Guerrero
Governor's Authorized Representative

Francisco C. Aguon, Acting Director
CNMI Procurement Services

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS | OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT PROGRAM
JUAN A. SABLAN BUILDING | CALLER BOX 10007 | SAIPAN, MP 96950 | 670.664.2417 | INFO@HM.GOV.MP

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
HOPE Recovery Center Generator and Generator House Project
RFP22-GOV-42200110

The Office of the Governor, Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), through the Governor's Authorized Representative (collectively, "Commonwealth") is soliciting sealed proposals from qualified contractors to deliver, supply, and install a generator set and renovate the existing generator house at the HOPE Recovery Center, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

Proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, currently in effect, and with the Northern Mariana Islands Administrative Code (NMIAC) §70-30-3-725 Gratuities and Kickbacks and §70.30.3-730 Prohibition Against Contingent Fees. Public Law 15-95 Local Preference Act, as amended by Public Law 15-118 does not apply to this federally funded project. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the CNMI.

The project package will be available beginning **May 26, 2022** between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the HMGP Office, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building in Capitol Hill, Saipan. A pre-proposal meeting will be held at the **HOPE Recovery Center in Marpi conference room at 10:00 a.m. on June 13, 2022.**

Questions about this request for proposal shall be addressed to the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Office attn.: Leona Deleon Guerrero, Program Manager, via email at ldlguerrero@omb.gov.mp no later than **June 22, 2022**.

The total proposal length shall not exceed 15 pages in length. A contractor that submits a proposal as a prime contractor cannot also submit as a subcontractor on another proposal. However, as a subcontractor, a company may be included in multiple proposals by different contractors.

Proposals will be evaluated and scored based on the following criteria:

1. Qualifications and experience on similar projects	30%
2. Work load and resources to accomplish work	10%
3. Project Approach & Schedule	10%
4. Cost	50%

Performance time for completion of this project is 210 calendar days upon issuance of notice to proceed. The daily amount of liquidated damages shall be $100.00/day.

Discussions shall be conducted with the top 3 ranked contractors. After a selection is made, negotiations will be conducted with the highest qualified contractor to determine the final fair and reasonable price of the contract for the work to be performed. The successful proposers will be subjected to a responsibility and responsiveness determination in compliance with Section 3-301 of the CNMI Procurement Regulations.

Proposals must be sealed and marked **RFP22-GOV-42200110 HOPE Recovery Center Generator and Generator House Project**. For proposers within the CNMI, one original and three (3) copies of the proposals must be submitted to the Director of Procurement Services, 1st Floor Horiguchi Building, Kopa Di Oru Street, Garapan, Saipan MP 96950 no later than **10:00 a.m. ChST, July 8, 2022**. Proposers located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of intent to propose. Notices of intent to propose must be received by the Director of Procurement Services no later than **10:00 a.m., ChST, July 8, 2022** and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to bidintent@dof.gov.mp.

For proposers located outside the CNMI, one original and three (3) copies of the sealed proposals must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **July 8, 2022**, and mailed to the Director of Procurement Services P.O. Box 510008 CK, Saipan MP 96950 and the proposal documents must be received no later than **July 20, 2022**. Failure to submit the required number of copies of the proposal may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfection in any proposal if, in its opinion to do so would be in the best interests of the CNMI government. All proposals shall become the property of the CNMI government.

Patrick C. Guerrero
Governor's Authorized Representative

Francisco C. Aguon, Acting Director
CNMI Procurement Services

UFO's 'Pistang Pinoy' returns this Sunday

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

The United Filipino Organization of Saipan is inviting the CNMI community to a celebration of the Philippines' 124th Independence Day on Sunday, June 12, at the Marianas Business Plaza in Susupe, with the long awaited "Pistang Pinoy," which returns after a two-year hiatus due to the pandemic.

The theme of this year's Philippines Independence Day (Araw ng Kalayaan) is "Pagsuong sa Hamon ng Panibagong Bukas" ("Rise to the challenge of a new beginning").

The festivities from 10am to 8pm are expected to feature a variety of food vendors, small businesses, raffles with big prizes, and exciting games and live entertainment, which includes the Filipino games "Hep Hep Hooray" and "Pera o Kahon."

To begin the celebration, there will be a flag raising of the Philippine flag. This ceremony is usually done by honorary Philippine consul Glicerio "Eli" Arago but, with his passing last year, it will be done by volunteers this year.

"We would like to remember the hard work and sacrifice that many members of our Filipino community endured during the COVID-19 pandemic. Although many of us have experienced different kinds of hardship and loss, we also experienced the unity, positivity, compassion, and selflessness of many of our Filipino brothers and sisters to rebuild and reconnect with those of us who are struggling. As a community, we should be proud of our ability to look out for one another and remain strong in the face of any challenges that come our way," said UFO president Mar Masilungan in a statement.

Some sponsors of this year's "Pistang Pinoy" are IT&E, who is a gold sponsor, RNV Construction and Tan Siu Li Foundation, both silver sponsors, and the Marianas Business Plaza, and Radiocom/KWAW Magic 100 FM.

COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-22-029
REPLACEMENT OF SADOG TASI WWTP CLARIFIER

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Replacement of Sadog Tasi Clarifier Replacement in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The intent of the contract is for the Contractor to provide all labor, equipment, supplies and materials necessary to complete the scope of work which consists of; installation of a new circular clarifier mechanism and effluent launder box, construction of a sloped concrete floor, and other miscellaneous features. The work shall include; the dewatering and cleaning of aeration basin #3 and the clarifier, routing process flow and maintaining conditions during the construction period, and returning process flow from the aeration basin to the clarifier. The work shall be completed with minimal disruption to the daily operation of the Sadog Tasi Waste Water Treatment Plant. CUC requires the Project to be completed in 365 calendar days from date of award of contract.

The project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from USEPA.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on **June 17, 2022 at 11:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and five (5) copies of the bid MUST be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-22-029, Replacement of the Sadog Tasi Clarifier"** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on July 7, 2022,** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. **Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.**

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. *A Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 a.m. (ChST) on June 23, 2022** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer via email address, manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Westen Knudsen, Water/Wastewater Engineer at westen.knudsen@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC P&S, Senior Administrative Technician at marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Officer

Commonwealth Cancer Association
AWARENESS•EDUCATION•HOPE

JOB VACANCY ANNOUCEMENT

POSITION TITLE:
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
STATUS:
PERMANENT-EXEMPT
SUPERVISED BY:
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
POSITION(S) SUPERVISED:
ALL EMPLOYEES

OPEN DATE: JUNE 3, 2022
CLOSE DATE: JUNE 17, 2022

The Executive Director is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the CCA ensuring quality services, advocacy, solid financials, community education, public relations, and fundraising. The Executive Director works closely with the seven members of the Board of Directors and assists both board and CCA committees as needed. The Executive Director assumes the primary leadership role for the CCA

HOW TO APPLY:
You may email your resume to Ms. Nora S. Fejeran, Search Committee Chair, at norasablan@gmail.com or submit to the Commonwealth Cancer Association Office at Gualo Rai Plaza Building Located along Chalan Pale Arnold Road, Gualo Rai, Saipan, from Monday to Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. If you would Like more information, please call our office at +1 (670) 682-0050

This JVA is being supported in whole or in part by CNMI Award Number: CNMI 22008, awarded to the Commonwealth Cancer Association by the CNMI Department of Finance.

Select EIP records to be destroyed

The Public School System's Early Intervention Program would like to inform parents of infants and toddlers who received Early Intervention Services at the Children's Developmental Assistance Center from 2017 to 2018 that your child's records are no longer needed by the program and will therefore be destroyed in a manner that ensures all personal identifiers are removed from the record and the record is no longer personally identifiable.

The Early Intervention Program will maintain indefinitely a permanent record of your child's name, address, phone numbers, entry date, exit date, and eligibility information.

Records, other than the permanent information listed above, will be destroyed 30 days from yesterday.

For any other information, call Early Intervention Program director Robin Palacios at 664-4841. ***(PR)***

Free federal contracting webinars

The Guam Procurement Technical Assistance Center is offering two webinars a week in June 2022. If our usual Thursday webinar doesn't work for you, then join us on Tuesdays!

Webinars run from 10am to 11:30am and will be conducted via Zoom. Links to the live webinar and the webinar evaluation will be emailed to all registered attendees 15 minutes before the start of the webinar.

■ June 7 and June 9, 2022 – How to Register in SAM - Vendors need an active SAM registration to participate in Federal contracting. The SAM registration process recently changed. The Guam PTAC will take you through the new registration process as well as the new annual renewal process.

■ June 14 and June 16, 2022 – Federal Contract Opportunities - SAM.gov is the portal for Federal Contract Opportunities. The Guam PTAC will show you how to use the website to ensure you do not miss any opportunities. Opportunity types, search filters, and search strategies will be discussed.

■ June 21 and June 23, 2022 – Marketing to the Federal Government - The government buys products and services differently than the private sector. The Guam PTAC will discuss marketing strategies, essential documents, and how to get your company noticed by government buyers.

Register for free at https://www.guamptac.com/news-and-events.php. ***(PR)***

Help US Celebrate and Protect Our Oceans

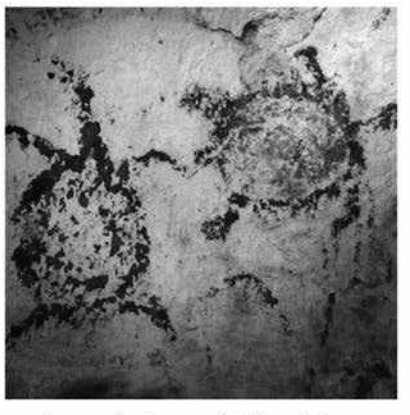
CNMI SEA TURTLE CONSERVATION PROGRAM

Sea Turtles spend almost all their lives in our oceans- only coming to land to lay eggs.

Cave painting show the importance of sea turtles to our local culture.

Sea turtles are in danger of extinction in the CNMI and need our protection to survive. You can help!

It's illegal to hunt or harass sea turtles. Please call to report harassment, poaching, or strandings of sea turtles in the CNMI. The number is 670-287-8537



Sea turtle pictographs Chugai, Rota. Photo by L. Sztukowski

We need your help to protect sea turtles! Call our 24/7 hotline to report harassment, poaching, or strandings of sea turtles in the CNMI. The number is 670-287-8537 and make sure to follow our Facebook page (CNMI Sea Turtle Program)!

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP22-CHCC/CGC-018

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: JULY 8TH, 2021 TIME: 10:00AM (CHST)

"OFFICE LEASE - SAIPAN"

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE [WWW.CHCC.GOV.MP]. ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS** TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP22-CHCC/OUT-PATIENT PHARMACY-019

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: JULY 8TH, 2021 TIME: 10:00AM (CHST)

"Pharmacy Department Drive-thru Renovation & Improvements" (Coordinate, Design, Oversight Monitoring & Construction) For CHCC Hospital/Pharmacy Department

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE [WWW.CHCC.GOV.MP]. ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS** TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

COVID UPDATE

0 hospitalizations; 37 new cases

As of June 5, 2022, there were zero individuals hospitalized as a result of COVID-19.

From May 30 to June 5, 2022, there were zero new hospitalizations.

Also, 37 additional individuals have been confirmed positive for COVID-19, bringing the CNMI total to 11,403 cases since March 28, 2020.

Of the 37 cases, eight were identified on May 30; six on May 31; three on June 1; eight on June 2; five on June 3; one on June 4; and six on June 5.

As of June 6, 2022, a total of 23,360 COVID-19 additional/booster vaccine shots have been administered; of the eligible population, 62.6% have received an additional dose. The vaccination rate is calculated using the 2020 Census population estimates for the CNMI and includes the eligible 5-years-old and older population.

A total of 2,275 COVID-19 tests were conducted May 30 – June 5, 2022: 670 on May 30; 232 on May 31; 81 on June 1; 631 on June 2; 574 on June 3; 50 on June 4; and 37 on June 5.

Of the total cases identified, as of June 5, 2022, there have already been 11,346 recoveries; 23 active cases; and 34 COVID-19-related deaths. A total of 10,459 were identified via community testing and 944 travel testing.

The next Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. report will be around June 13, 2022.

Individuals who test positive for COVID-19 should stay home and isolate when they are sick (except to get medical care), even if they do not have symptoms; rest; stay hydrated; can take over-the-counter medicines, such as acetaminophen or ibuprofen, to relieve symptoms; and live COVID-19 safe.

Residents of the CNMI who test positive for COVID-19 on a self-administered test may be eligible for treatment by reporting their positive test result online at www.staysafecnmi.com/self-reporting within 5 days of the test result date. Residents requesting COVID-19 treatment should fill out the medical questionnaire in the form to get assessed as soon as possible. Reporting a positive test result online also allows residents to obtain a certificate of quarantine completion, which employers/individuals may use as documentation of a positive test result.

Individuals experiencing COVID-19 symptoms should stay home (except to get medical care or get tested for COVID-19) and live COVID-19 safe. Other options include seeing their health care provider or calling the CHCC Tele-Triage hotline at (670) 233-2067. For a guidebook on how to live COVID-19 safe, visit www.staysafecnmi.com/livecovidsafe.

CHCC continues to encourage the community to get vaccinated if they have not done so, or get their booster shot if they are eligible to help prevent severe illness, hospitalization, or death. People considered high risk (e.g., history of diabetes, high blood pressure, heart disease, obesity, or cancer, or over the age of 65), immunocompromised persons, or unvaccinated individuals are at risk of serious illness from COVID-19. Unvaccinated individuals spread the virus at a higher rate than vaccinated individuals, thereby increasing the spread and risk of serious illness toward other unvaccinated individuals.

Stay up to date with your COVID-19 vaccination, which includes additional doses for individuals who are immunocompromised or booster doses for those who are eligible. Register for COVID-19 vaccines at www.vaccinatecnmi.com, or call (670) 682-7468 or 236-8745. ***(PR)***

COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

REQUEST FOR ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING SERVICES PROPOSAL
CUC-RAESP-22-027

A&E Design Services For Water System Mitigation PH II, PH I

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified Architectural and Engineering (A&E) firms for the Water System Mitigation Project PH II, PH I.

This project is funded by a grant from the United States FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from FEMA HMGP.

Prospective Proposers for this project must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The RAESP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 for one package set.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies of the Proposal and One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies of the Cost Proposal in a separate envelope must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-RAESP-22-027, A&E Design Services for Water System Mitigation PH II, PH I"**, to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on June 27, 2022. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.**

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers who submit proposal determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. All proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from the proposal submitted by competing proposers.

All proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the proposers due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Consultant's preparation of a proposal under the contract. The RAESP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the statement of qualifications under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Consultants are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This RAESP and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on June 6, 2022** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email – manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Mr. Larry Manacop, CUC Water/Wastewater, Acting Chief Engineer – via email larry.manacop@cucgov.org; and Ms. Marcela Tenorio, Administrative Technician Senior – via email marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the proposal in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

CHRETIEN T. VOERG
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
RE-ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 22 – 063

Opening Date: May 26, 2022
Closing Date: June 09, 2022

POSITION TITLE:	**Direct Responsible Charge "DRC", aka Trades Supervisor**
DEPARTMENT:	**Water Division**
LOCATION:	**Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands, USA**
ANNUAL SALARY:	**$32,161.00 to $43,417.00 per annum, Exempt**
CONTRACT:	**Contracted**
POSITION(S):	**One (1)**

The incumbent will be under the direct supervision of the Drinking Water & Wastewater Division Manager or his/her designee.

Duties:
- Supervises in the installation, repair and maintenance of water mains and other associated components including hydrants, meters, water tanks, water service lines, valves and pumps;
- Supervises and trains employees in the operation of appropriate motor and other equipment including back hoes, trucks, trenchers, boom trucks, drills, tapping machines, and locating devices;
- Assists in the coordination and inspection of work performed by contractors and engineers;
- Supervises in the preventative maintenance, service and repair activities of the water distribution vehicles and equipment;
- Supervises in the repair of leaks in mains and water service installations;
- Supervises in the taking of routine water samples for water quality testing;
- Ensures compliance with policies, procedures, safety guidelines, schedules and work specifications;
- Assigns, schedules and verifies completed work involved in the repair and maintenance of a water distribution system;
- May assist in the preparation of the departmental budget;
- Maintains accurate records and prepares reports, such as status reports, diagrams, field logs and requisitions;
- Calculates proper ratio of chlorine to water based on formula's specific to water chlorination;
- Responds to customer's inquiries and complaints regarding water service.
- Assignment of work orders to field staff and tracking of completed work.
- Conducts staff's performance evaluations.
- Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

Minimum Requirements:
Education: High School Diploma or GED or ABE Program AS, and 5 years of experience in assigned area of responsibility and 2 years' experience in a supervisory capacity; or, an equivalent combination of education and experience sufficient to successfully perform the essential duties of the job such as those listed above, unless otherwise subject to any other requirements set forth in law or regulation.
Knowledge of: Applicable Federal, Commonwealth and local laws, codes, regulations and/or ordinances; Customer service principles; Supervisory Principles; Generally Accepted Accounting Principles and other applicable laws, rules and regulations. Budgeting Principles; and Basic mathematics.
Skills in: Monitoring and evaluating staff; Prioritizing and assigning work to staff; Applying Federal, State, and/or Local laws, rules, and regulations; Performing mathematical calculations; Applying accounting procedures and principles; Developing and implementing procedures and standards; Recording, analyzing, verifying, reconciling, and reporting accounting transactions; Preparing and analyzing financial statements and reports; Using computers and related software applications; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.
Licensing:
- o Valid CNMI Driver's License with appropriate class.
- o Water Distribution Operator Certification Level 3
- o Water Treatment Operator Certification Level 3

Physical Demands:
- o Occasional lifting of objects; Subject to standing, walking sitting, bending, reaching, kneeling, pushing and pulling.

How to Apply: Submit a completed CUC Employment Application, resume, and applicable supporting documents to the CUC Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan, Monday and Friday 7:30 am – 4:30 pm (Except Legal Holidays). Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota may submit their documents to their respective CUC Administration office. Application, resume and supporting documents can also be e-mailed to: employment.applications@cucgov.org

P. O. Box 501220, Third Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 664-4282 • Fax: (670) 235-5131
CUC is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
RE-ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 22 – 007

Opening Date: May 26, 2022
Closing Date: June 09, 2022

POSITION TITLE:	**Trades Assistant**
DEPARTMENT:	**Water Division**
LOCATION:	**Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands, USA**
ANNUAL SALARY:	**$16,742.00 - $22,602.00 per annum, Non -Exempt**
CONTRACT:	**Not Contracted**
POSITION(S):	**One (1)**

The incumbent will be under the direct supervision of the Drinking Water & Wastewater Division Manager or his/her designee.

Duties:
- Assists with installations, repairs and general maintenance in assigned service area; operates motorized vehicles, equipment machinery, and hand and power tools.
- Performs routine and preventative maintenance on equipment, vehicles, systems and/or infrastructure; performs basic inspections; and conducts basic troubleshooting of issues.
- Responds to trouble calls as needed.
- Prepares job site for work including gathering and setting up materials and supplies, and setting work safety barriers for protection and to direct traffic flow away from work site.
- Gathers, cleans and returns equipment, materials and supplies used.
- Cleans and maintains work site after project or repair work is complete.
- Monitors equipment; takes readings and collects data; documents equipment readings; prepares and submits data and work reports.
- Performs inventory spot checks to ensure adequate materials and supplies are available for daily maintenance activities.
- Performing daily well and pump station facility maintenance, cleaning and monitoring;
- Assisting plumbing and chlorine maintenance crew;
- Utilizing digging equipment for locating and repairing leaks;
- Repairing and securing pressure reducer valves, main valves, service lines and laterals, and booster pumps;
- Assisting with meter installation and repair;
- Collecting water samples.
- Must be able to lift objects weighing at 40 lbs. or more.
- Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

Minimum Requirements:

Education: High School Diploma or GED or ABE Program AS Diploma.
Knowledge of: Customer service principles; Basic mathematical concepts; Safety procedures and safe work practices; Modern office technology.
Skills in: Providing customer service; Reading maps and drawings; Operating heavy and light equipment machinery, hand and power tools required of assigned area; Adhering to safety procedures and safe work practices; Prioritizing tasks and managing time for efficiency; Identifying issues and solving problems; Providing attention to detail; Taking equipment readings and recording data; Maintaining activity logs and reports; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

Licensing: o Valid Driver's License with appropriate class.

All applicants may be tested and all applicants are subject to pre-employment drug test.

How to Apply: Submit a completed CUC Employment Application, resume, and applicable supporting documents to the CUC Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan, Monday through Friday 7:30 am – 4:30 pm (Except Legal Holidays). Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota may submit their documents to their respective CUC Administration office. Application, resume and supporting documents can also be e-mailed to: employment.applications@cucgov.org

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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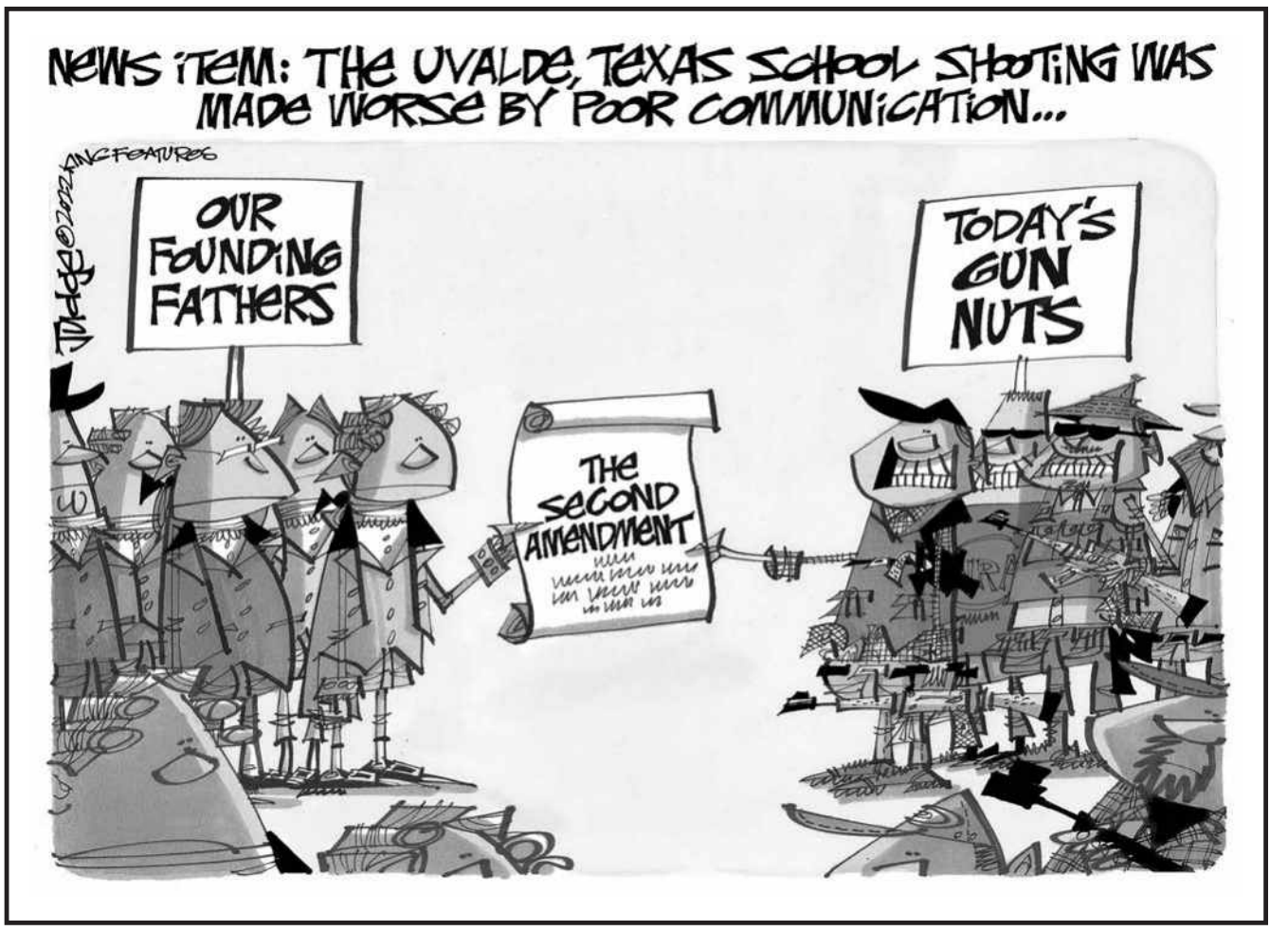

NEWS ITEM: THE UVALDE, TEXAS SCHOOL SHOOTING WAS MADE WORSE BY POOR COMMUNICATION...
OUR FOUNDING FATHERS
THE SECOND AMENDMENT
TODAY'S GUN NUTS

EDITORIAL

Uvalde parents put their faith in a school police commander who lost his nerve

A CNN reporter correctly confronted the Uvalde, Texas, school district chief of police on Wednesday, refusing to take no for an answer when Chief Pedro Arredondo repeatedly tried to sidestep the reporter and avoid answering crucial questions about last week's school massacre. Arredondo escaped through a door, after which the school district announced that it would arrest any reporter found on school district property.

These aren't the actions of administrators and officers interested in an honest assessment of what went wrong in a school shooting that left 19 children and two educators dead. These are the actions of officials doing their best to evade accountability for the apparent hand-wringing cowardice of a commander who restrained law enforcers from taking action to save precious lives.

The threat to arrest reporters applies not just to Robb Elementary, the scene of the massacre, but any school district property where reporters wait to speak with officials. A video posted on Twitter Wednesday showed four school district officers informing reporters that they were regarded as trespassers and subject to arrest.

The pathetic story of Arredondo's inaction, which may have cost the lives of wounded children, seems to get more pathetic by the day. At first, Uvalde law enforcers looked like heroes when stories circulated of alleged heroism in the first minutes of the school attack. But on closer inspection, it became clear that Arredondo behaved like a bumbling, indecisive coward.

U.S. Border Patrol officers, a police SWAT team and others waited anxiously for the order to go in as the shooter continued his rampage. Parents pleaded with officers to stop standing around and take action. One mother broke through a cordon to rescue her child. They handcuffed her. In the shooter's presence, children were texting their parents, pleading for help.

But for 80 minutes, Arredondo—the incident commander in charge—held back. Some parents have good reason to believe that their wounded children might have bled out during that waiting period. It's unclear whether additional victims were shot while Arredondo was holding back. Uvalde's mayor, expressing outrage, asked the Justice Department to investigate.

CNN reporter Shimon Prokupecz confronted Arredondo directly at his office—not on school grounds—to ask why Texas Department of Public Safety officials are saying Ar-

See UVALDE on Next Page

Class of 2022 has a chance to be the next Greatest Generation

By DAN RODRICKS
The Baltimore Sun

Dear graduates, Class of 2022:

I ask you to take a vow to do better than my generation did. All is not lost, but we are leaving you a big mess. I write today to wish you well, but also to apologize and ask you to commit to fixing things.

I know: You're going to have your hands full just getting through college or getting a job. Being asked to shoulder the responsibility for fixing a country—that must sound pretty intimidating.

But if you don't take it on, there's no telling what's ahead, and if you don't like uncertainty in your future, then you'll have to be the generation that fixes things.

When I was in your shoes, no one spoke of climate change.

There was violence around us, but not like we've seen in recent years, with horrible mass shootings, some of them in schools. I'm sorry the nation has not acted to make all of us, starting with children, safer from guns. But the severe political partisanship, the just-say-no to every effort at progress, is part of the big mess we're leaving you.

There was always a political divide, but not with the searing bitterness and hostile tribalism like we have now.

Back in the day, Republicans and Democrats actually found ways to agree on some things—clean water, clean air, civil rights—and passed laws that made life better for millions.

People always complained about taxes, but the denigration of government was not as constant as it has been over the last 40 years.

We had protests, but no one ever invaded the Capitol or tried to reverse the results of a presidential election.

So, yeah, a big mess.

Your parents probably didn't tell you this, and I don't blame them. They want you to dream and believe that anything is possible in America.

But no matter what your dream—to own your own auto body shop, to be a doctor, to be a millionaire by the time you're 25—it won't mean much if the world continues to heat up and America loses its democracy.

On climate change, we've not done nearly enough. Scientists tell us we need to be off coal as a fuel within 30 years to avoid the catastrophic effects of the changing climate. We need to drastically reduce the amount of gasoline and oil we burn by the middle of the century.

Remember: It's mostly your future now, not ours. For that reason, I've never understood why those of the baby boom generation and the generation just before it—people now grandparents and even great grandparents—voted for politicians who called the climate crisis a hoax.

That's another thing: The denigration and dismissal of science. I'm not calling for the elimination of skepticism; skepticism is healthy. But let's be reasonable: Those scientists in lab coats, who went to college and earned multiple degrees and who researched threats to human life, know more than the rest of us. Those who went into public health did so because they believe in its mission. They deserve our respect, not ridicule.

The pandemic revealed a nonsensical distrust of public health that did not exist when I was a kid and the adults lined us up for inoculations.

Your generation needs to make priorities of reason and the pursuit of truth.

You need to have some baseline agreement on facts—climate change is happening, and we're the cause, for instance—and then act.

Be the generation that breaks from the crazy conspiracy theories that have seeped into the mainstream. There's no time for it. There is serious work to be done.

A big part of that work is repairing and protecting our democracy. If you want to keep a representative system, with the right to vote, then you need to scream about partisan threats to voting rights and reverse those that have already occurred.

To stop mass shootings—or, to get anything positive done, for that matter—we need to have legislators and members of Congress who are responsive to the people and not just lobbyists and billionaires.

There's something else we need from your generation. We need you to be a restorative power. We need you to stand up for the ideals and principles that my generation and the ones before us considered the foundation of a civilized and progressive country.

I recently told graduates of McDaniel College that, in a cloudy, confusing and cynical world, there are still ideals we can list and describe: Character still counts, integrity counts, honesty counts,

See CLASS on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Chief Arredondo's failure wasn't the only one in Uvalde

Uvalde school district Police Chief Pete Arredondo is hard pressed to find much sympathy or support anywhere these days.

His failure to breach the classroom door and take down the shooter while children were still alive is inexplicable. It's going to be a hard thing to live with. In fact, I suspect the rest of Arredondo's life will be haunted by his failure of May 24, 2022.

Still, in our condemnation of the chief, it's worth noting that very, very few of us have ever been in his position. Have you ever been jarred from the routine of an ordinary day and suddenly been called upon to make a complex life-or-death decision that tests the very limits of your courage?

Unless you have, please indulge my skepticism about the confidence with which you assure us that you would have immediately burst through the locked door of the fatal classroom, guns blazing.

As often happens, former President Donald Trump provides an outlandish caricature of the untested certainty about the brave actions that so many are willing, in retrospect, to assert that they would have taken.

After the 2018 Parkland school shooting that killed 17, Trump criticized several deputies who failed to immediately enter the school. Trump would not have hesitated: "I really believe I'd run in there even if I didn't have a weapon."

Of course, this is pure bluster of a particularly rich type, coming from a man who deftly managed to avoid military service during his generation's war.

The fact is, none of us knows for sure how we would behave in Chief Arredondo's position.

I make no excuses for Arredondo. His failure, whether of judgment or of courage, is appalling.

But it's worth thinking about what he knew and what he didn't know during the crisis. He may not have known that there was only one shooter. He did not know whether the shooter was an unbalanced teenager — as it turned out — or a disgruntled, suicidal employee. He did not know the tactical situation inside the classroom. He did not know whether the shooter was wearing body armor. Because of communications failures, he may not have known that children were still alive in the classroom, whispering pleas for rescue.

AP

Uvalde School Police Chief Pete Arredondo, third from left, stands during a news conference outside of the Robb Elementary school in Uvalde, Texas Thursday, May 26, 2022.

But the one thing that Arredondo knew for sure was that the shooter was very, very well armed.

No American shooter enters a school, movie theater, nightclub or medical facility without availing himself of his almost unlimited ability to acquire high-powered, semi-automatic weaponry with enormous magazine capacity.

Not only is this sort of firepower available to 18-year-old kids, they're encouraged to buy it. Daniel Defense, the firearms manufacturer that made the weapon that the Uvalde shooter used to kill 21 people, is running a "Product Spotlight" special this week, a 12-pack of 32-round magazines, "enhanced" above the industry-standard 30-round magazine, for only $236. Financing is available.

So, whatever fears and doubts Chief Arredondo might have been struggling with as he first approached the classroom door, the one thing that he could be sure of was that he was seriously outgunned by a shooter in a favorable defensive position.

Some portion of the membership of the National Rifle Association fantasizes about the opportunity to use their beloved weapons of war in a righteous assault. Fine. If you're among them, enjoy your fantasy.

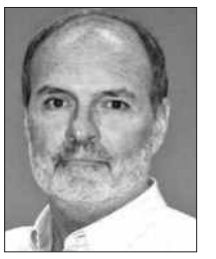
Maybe Chief Arredondo shared that fantasy, but I suspect that when it came right down to it, his courage failed him.

But where's our courage? We're asking our police officers to confront increasingly well-armed adversaries. Our police forces have responded with a militarized arms race that can't be good for anyone. And we keep talking about arming teachers and providing our schools with security guards.

But the fact is, once the shooting starts, at first, at least, the good guys are always going to be outgunned.

Chief Arredondo failed. But we've failed, too. When are we going to muster the courage to confront the subset of Americans who strive to convince us that we're unsafe without a gun, and then work hard to create the conditions that make it so?

By JOHN M. CRISP
Tribune News Service



John M. Crisp, an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service, lives in Georgetown, Texas, and can be reached at jcrispcolumns@gmail.com.

Economic hubris gives way to humility

Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen has finally admitted how badly she underestimated the inflationary threat last year. Although President Joe Biden himself continues to insist the economy is better than it looks, even he acknowledges that Americans won't view the economy more favorably until rising prices are tamed.

He's also offered the crucial concession that the Federal Reserve must be allowed to lead on both inflation analysis and policy. While some may see this as ducking blame, this dose of humility is an enormous improvement over the way Democrats have discussed the economy in the last year and a half.

In early 2021, Biden offered a heroic two-phase plan in which the administration would first rescue the economy and then transform it. Phase I, the rescue, was premised on timing the passage of a $1.7 trillion stimulus bill with a program of mass vaccination. The idea was for a burst of new spending to hit the economy just as businesses were reopening and workers were returning to the job market.

Phase II, the transformation, was a cornucopia of new spending designed to further entrench the federal government's role in health care, child care, elder care and higher education. It also included a combination of tax credits, mandates, regulations and anti-trade, pro-union provisions ostensibly to address climate change.

Even former Treasury Secretary Larry Summers, who helped design and implement the bailout and stimulus during the presidency of Barack Obama, warned that Phase I was ill advised and Phase II was overly ambitious. Along with other left-of-center economists, he worried that the rescue phase would overheat the U.S. economy, stoke inflation and undercut support for a more modest transformation.

Those warnings turned out to be understated. The omicron variant of COVID scuttled the administration's reopening plans and flooded the economy with cash just as a new wave of closings set in. Inflation rose higher and faster than anyone predicted. Rather than promptly admitting its mistake, however, the administration spent last year insisting that inflation was only transitory and that its initial plan was sound.

This hubris is what lead the U.S. economy into this mess. Thankfully, the administration is now showing the humility necessary to get the U.S. out of it. As Biden now admits, it is the Federal Reserve, not the White House, which should chart the course between inflation and recession.

By KARL W. SMITH
Bloomberg News

Karl W. Smith is a Bloomberg Opinion *columnist. Previously, he was vice president for federal policy at the Tax Foundation and assistant professor of economics at the University of North Carolina.*

What neither the administration nor its left-of-center critics seemed to appreciate is that the threat of economic transformation itself would paralyze U.S. industry. The Biden administration promised to overhaul trade, and probably reduce Chinese exports, at a time when West Coast ports were facing overwhelming demand. Naturally, these ports were reluctant to invest more money to handle the record volume when the federal government was promising to reduce it.

Likewise, the administration made it clear it would show little mercy for fossil-fuel companies in its pursuit of a green tomorrow. It canceled the Keystone XL project, for example, just weeks into the president's term, into which a combined $6.8 billion had already been invested. It nominated to the Fed board Sarah Bloom Raskin, who advocated for excluding the fossil-fuel industry from receiving government relief in an economic crisis. No wonder oil companies have been reluctant to increase investment even as the price of oil and gas has soared.

If Biden wants to give the Federal Reserve maximum leeway to steer the economy toward stability, he needs to forsake these policies, along with any other efforts to guide U.S. industry toward some kind of "preferred outcome."

The administration has already outsourced the job of stabilizing the economy. It deserves praise for that. Now it needs to resist the impulse to pick winners and losers in the recovery—and if it doesn't, it will deserve any blame it gets for the recovery stalling out.

UVALDE

From Page 8

redondo wasn't cooperating with their investigation. Arredondo claimed his office was in contact with them, then fell back on the excuse that families are burying their loved ones and, "out of respect," he would wait for them to finish grieving before answering questions.

Those families will never stop grieving. They deserve answers. It's too bad that they, like the families whose children were slaughtered in the 2019 Parkland, Florida, school massacre, had to put their trust in a law enforcer who seemed to have lost his nerve when the ability to summon courage might have saved lives.

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CLASS

From Page 8

courage counts; selflessness is not the stuff of suckers and snowflakes, it's the stuff of real community heroes; respect for truth and justice, decision-making based on facts and objective reality, care for the democracy and the common good, civility, decency, generosity, empathy—these are the traits of the good woman, the good man, the solid citizen, the moral leader, the salt of the earth.

I'm asking you to restore and champion those ideals by how you live your lives.

That's a lot, I know. I'm sorry to put all this on you. I'm sorry about the state we're in. But too much of the country's leadership is engaged in nonsense while the planet heats up, while Americans large and small die in mass shootings, while our democracy faces threats.

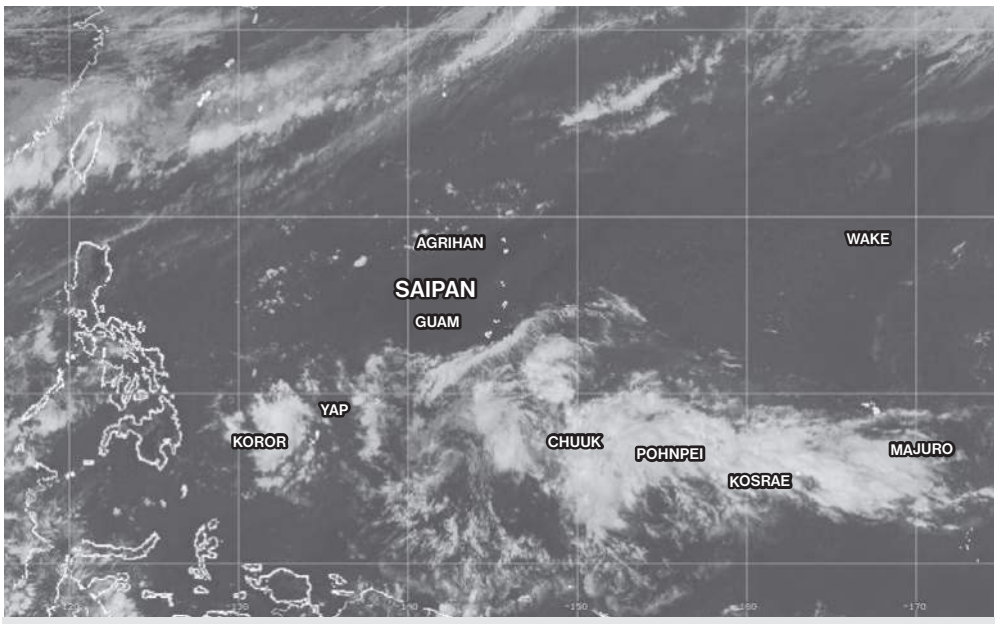
We've had our chance. Now it's yours. Save the country, save the planet, and you'll go down as the next Greatest Generation.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Partly sunny, with Isolated showers. East wind 9 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 21 mph.	Partly sunny, with Scattered showers. East wind 11 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 21 mph.	Mostly sunny,.	Mostly sunny.	Partly sunny.
90° 78°	90° 78°	90° 78°	90° 78°	90° 79°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 8:54 AM, TUESDAY, JUNE 7, 2022

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Visible satellite imagery shows increased cumulus development (clouds that produce showers and/or thunderstorm) moving into the Marianas. This may allow a brief shower to develop today. Otherwise, winds are gentle with seas near 3 feet based on the latest buoy observations. The water temperature is 85 degrees at Tanapag and Ritidian, and 86 degrees at Ipan.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

■ Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.

■ Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.

■ Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.

■ Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.

■ Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.

■ Create a household plan of action, https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html

■ Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

■ Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.

■ Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

■ Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:

• Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.

• Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

• Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

• Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mpand, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

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MICRONESIA	▲ ▼ °F	
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	31 / 27 °F
Palau	Mostly Sunny	29 / 24 °F
Yap	Thunderstorms	29 / 25 °F
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	30 / 26°F
Pohnpei	Cloudy	29 / 25 °F
Kosrae	Showers	29 / 26 °F
Majuro	Scattered Thunderstorms	29 / 26 °F

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	05:45 AM	18:46 PM
Thursday	05:46 AM	18:46 PM
Friday	05:46 AM	18:46 PM
Saturday	05:46 AM	18:47 PM
Sunday	05:46 AM	18:47 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	00:42PM	12:46 PM
Thursday	-	01:19 PM	13:37 PM
Friday	-	01:56 PM	14:30 PM
Saturday	-	02:36 PM	15:25 PM
Sunday	-	03:20 PM	16:26 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE	▲ ▼ °F	
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	19 / 13 °F
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	26 / 14 °F
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	28 / 26 °F
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	30 / 22 °F
London	Light Rain	20 / 12 °F
Los Angeles	Sunny	28 / 17 °F
Manila	Scattered Thunderstorms	32 / 27 °F
Melbourne	Showers	11 / 8 °F
Miami	Scattered Thunderstorms	30 / 24 °F
New York	Partly Cloudy	29 / 19 °F
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	25 / 16 °F
Paris	Rain	21 / 12 °F
Busan	Cloudy	21 / 16 °F
Rome	Cloudy	31 / 19 °F
Salem	PM Thunderstorms	31 / 21 °F
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	20 / 12 F
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	27 / 17 °F
Tokyo	Showers	18 / 15 °F
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	30 / 20°F

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY	FEET	
02:35 AM	Low Tide	2.00
08:58 AM	High Tide	1.15
1:29 PM	Low Tide	1.54
8:08 PM	High Tide	0.56

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:50AM	10:30AM	Daily
UA156	6:30PM	7:15PM	6

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	6:00AM	8:00AM	Daily
UA193	7:05PM	10:55PM	5 via Palau
UA183	7:10PM	9:10PM	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam
UA117/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	5 via Guam, Palau

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

TW9308	3:30PM	7:20PM	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3405	3:30PM	7:25PM	6
RS112	3:45PM	7:30PM	3, 6
7C3405	3:50PM	7:45PM	3
OZ624	4:00PM	7:40PM	3, 6

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	2:00PM	5:20PM	7
7C3451	3:00PM	6:20PM	3
BX621	3:10PM	6:30PM	3, 7

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	8:00AM	8:45AM	Daily
UA112	4:40PM	5:30PM	6

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

PR110	10:00PM	4:00AM+1	Daily
UA184	10:25PM	4:25AM+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA192	10:25PM	6:15AM+1	5 via Palau
UA184	11:50PM	5:40AM+1	5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

A184/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	1,2,3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
UA192/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	5 via Palau, Guam
UA184/174	11:50PM	8:45AM+1	5 via Guam

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3406	8:30AM	2:10PM	6
RS111	8:45AM	2:05PM	3, 6
7C3406	8:50AM	2:30PM	3
TW9307	9:00AM	2:30PM	4, 6, 7
OZ623	9:00AM	2:30PM	3, 6
TW9307	9:15AM	2:30PM	3

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	8:00AM	1:00PM	7
BX621	8:00AM	1:10PM	3, 7
7C3452	9:00AM	2:00PM	3

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	SAIPAN	ROTA	8:30	9:00	Daily
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	11:00	11:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	12:00	12:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
1303	SAIPAN	ROTA	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	ROTA	SAIPAN	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	13:00	13:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	14:00	14:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
3103	ROTA	SAIPAN	16:30	17:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

LIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	ROTA	GUAM	12:00	12:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	GUAM	ROTA	13:00	13:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1202	SAIPAN	TINIAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	SAIPAN	TINIAN	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	SAIPAN	TINIAN	10:00	10:15	Daily
1208	SAIPAN	TINIAN	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	SAIPAN	TINIAN	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	SAIPAN	TINIAN	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	SAIPAN	TINIAN	17:00	17:15	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2102	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	TINIAN	SAIPAN	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	TINIAN	SAIPAN	10:30	10:45	Daily
2108	TINIAN	SAIPAN	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	TINIAN	SAIPAN	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	TINIAN	SAIPAN	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	TINIAN	SAIPAN	17:30	17:45	Daily

Santos, Villagomez lead MCS' high school Class of 2022

Valedictorian Aleia Carlinne Hofschneider Santos and salutatorian Richard Jesus Mafnas Villagomez led Mount Carmel School's high school graduating class last June 4, 2022, during the annual commencement ceremony at Mount Carmel Cathedral.

Santos also received the Most Outstanding Female Award from the Women's Affairs Office, Social Science Award, Theology Award, Computer Science Award, and Speech Award.

Villagomez was also presented with the Bishop Christian Service Award, the President's Award for Meritorious Achievement, the Governor's Leadership Award, English Language Arts Award, and Mathematics Award. He was also awarded the MCS Class of 1990 Scholarship of $1,000.

To be considered for the valedictorian and salutatorian awards, graduating high school students must complete at least two consecutive years of credits from Mount Carmel School, take at least two Advanced Placement courses, and earn the highest grade point average.

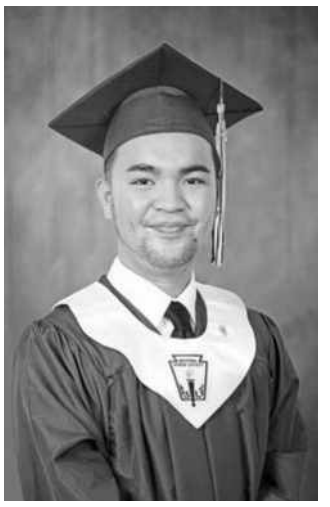
In her speech, Santos acknowledged that while her

ALEIA CARLINNE HOFSCHNEIDER SANTOS
Valedictorian

hard work and efforts are recognized during the commencement ceremony, more often than not "many of the strongest, bravest, and most deserving individuals don't get recognition for the great obstacles they've overcome or the fantastic feats they've accomplished."

She thanked the many people in her life that have supported her throughout her academic journey. "Thank you to my friends—each and every one of you has a piece of my heart forever. The closest I've ever been to having abs was all the times we laughed so hard that no sound came out-and the reason why I don't have those abs is because of all the food we ate together. Thank you to the endlessly patient and dedicated administrators, teachers, faculty, and staff at Mount Carmel. To the people I was lucky enough to study under—Ms. Lucero, Mr. Camacho, Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Buenaflor, Akemi Sensei, Mr. San Nicolas, Ms. V, Mr. Z, our fearless acting president Mrs. Taimanao, and, of course, our legendary, Jedi master slash keynote speaker, Dr. G—thank you. I'm sure it isn't easy caring for over 300 students that possess varying levels of control over hormonal reactions. And last, but certainly not least, chebut na si yu'us ma'ase to my family. They've showered me with love, support, and what I like to call nicknames, such as ka'duduka, tumalu' si tan loliga, and the only serious one: maga'neni. I will forever be indebted to and in awe of all them."

In his speech, Villagomez shared his story about the stereotypes he assumed was true about Mount Carmel School. "The first time I heard about those stereotypes was before I



RICHARD JESUS MAFNAS VILLAGOMEZ
Salutatorian

moved to MCS. I was told to be careful because there's so much drama here—or that MCS kids are stubborn or privileged or aren't studious at all."

He later debunked those misconceptions. "I noticed a lot of things when I first moved here. I noticed the diversity in our student community—not just in terms of ethnicity, but in terms of personality and passions, talents, and abilities. I noticed the vast opportunities at MCS in terms of both academics and extracurriculars, and how involved the student body was. I noticed that most students were not, in fact, stubborn, privileged kids—they knew the sacrifice that their parents were making to send them here and worked hard to make the most out of their education. Although we are neither far from perfect nor free of drama, I can proudly say that the people who warned me against moving to MCS were wrong. In fact, there's a lot that they left out. …They left out the part about how supportive MCS students are of each other, even when we slip up. They skipped over the part about how we work through our struggles and strive for excellence. The people here at MCS have taught me a lot about who I am and what it means to be strong. They have helped me grow within and beyond the classroom—and that's more than I could ever ask for from a school." Santos has committed to attend the University of Washington and major in public health, while Villagomez will attend the University of California, Berkeley, to pursue a degree in computer science. ***(PR)***

NMC to host second info session on Friday

NMC

Northern Marianas College will be hosting a second information session to provide prospective students and new applicants with admissions, financial aid, and other information. The last info session was attended by more than 100 students.

Northern Marianas College will be hosting a free information session on Friday, June 10, at NMC's Olympio T. Borja Library in Building O. The info session will be held from 5:30pm to 6:30pm.

The session will cover topics that include financial aid options and admissions. Participants of the info session will also qualify to have their application and placement test fees waived for NMC's upcoming fall 2022 semester—a savings of about $75.

NMC offers several degree and certificate programs, including a bachelor of science in education (concentration in early childhood education, elementary education, rehabilitation and human services, or special education), bachelor of science in business management (concentration in accounting or without concentration); associate of arts in business, associate of applied science in business administration (emphasis in accounting, business management, or computer applications), associate of applied science in hospitality management, associate of arts in liberal arts (emphasis in education, health and physical education, pre-engineering, social work, or without emphasis), associate of science in nursing, associate of science in agriculture, associate of science in natural resource management, associate of applied science in criminal justice, and associate of science in fire science technology. The certificate programs at NMC include Basic Law Enforcement, Business Management, Computer Applications, Early Childhood Education, Fire Science Technology, Hospitality Operations, Nursing Assistant, and Small Business Management.

The first day of classes for NMC's fall 2022 semester is on Aug. 15, 2022. A list of the classes that are offered can be found at www.marianas.edu. For additional information or inquiries, contact the Office of Admissions and Records at 237-6769/70/71/72 or email oar@marianas.edu. ***(NMC)***

Applications being accepted for fall enrollment at UOG

» Majority of classes to be in person

Applications to enroll at the University of Guam for the Fanuchånan 2022 semester are being accepted until Aug. 8, with classes starting on Aug. 17. And with the majority of classes to be held in person, the university campus and classes will officially return to their pre-pandemic state.

"Our faculty and staff are excited to fully engage with our students in all classes, across all programs, whether they elect to do so face-to-face, hybrid, or online. We especially look forward to welcoming students who put their education on hold until learning could be fully face-to-face again," said Anita Borja Enriquez, senior vice president and provost, who oversees academic and student affairs.

The university resumed in-person learning last summer, but a large number of classes remained solely online or hybrid. This fall, 80% of classes will be face-to-face while 20% will be online or hybrid. And in line with government of Guam regulations, the university no longer requires, yet still encourages, COVID vaccinations and masks.

The university offers 25 four-year undergraduate programs, including business administration, nursing, biology, computer science, and civil engineering.

At the master's level, the university offers 15 two-year graduate programs, including clinical psychology, public administration, sustainable agriculture, counseling, and a variety of education programs.

Cost to attend UOG

Students who qualify as residents can attend the University of Guam full-time (12 credits per semester) for $5,300 per academic year plus student fees of $800.

Comparatively, a student from this region paying out-of-state tuition at a stateside university would pay upwards of $8,100 per year, which is the average tuition among 15 of the most affordable U.S. universities, according to a list published by U.S. News and World Report in September.

Students can also find financial aid to attend UOG through federal and government of Guam grants, work-study opportunities, and various local and national scholarships. To get a better idea of cost and financial aid opportunities, prospective students can contact the UOG Financial Aid Office at (671) 735-2284 or finaid@triton.uog.edu.

Non-degree seeking students

Taking classes at UOG without pursuing a degree or enrolling as a full-time student is also possible. Residents can audit a specific class of personal or professional interest with approval from the course instructor. When auditing a course, students pay tuition per credit hour but no application, registration, or other fees. Visit url.uog.edu/non-degree for more information.

Residents may also opt to pursue a certificate in a certain subject area, which can generally be obtained over 12–18 credit hours. The university's nine certificate programs include health services administration, cybersecurity management, and traditional seafaring and others viewable at url.uog.edu/certificate-programs.

Tuition waiver for senior citizens

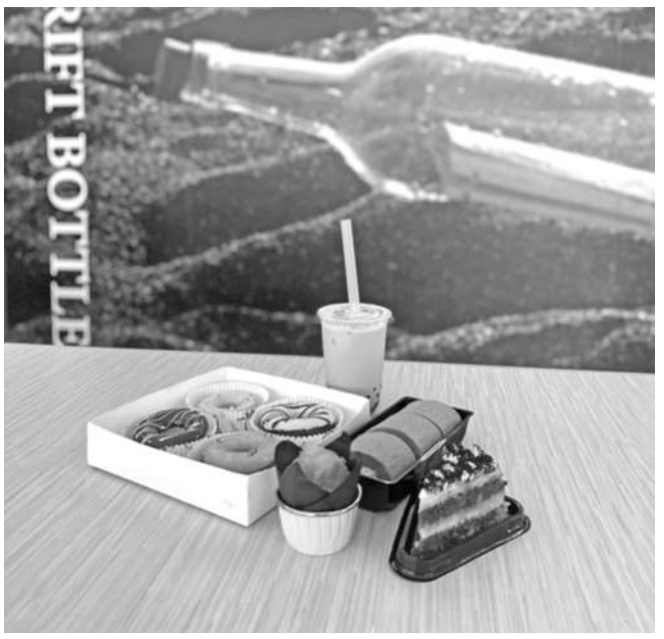
The university offers a tuition-waiver program for eligible residents ages 55 and above. Those interested must contact the Office of Admissions and Records at (671) 735-2210/1 by Aug. 12 to apply.

To view the schedule of courses available for the upcoming semester, visit www.uog.edu/admissions/course-schedule. For additional information or assistance, contact the Office of Admissions and Records at (671) 735-2202 or admitme@triton.uog.edu. ***(UOG)***

Business

Drift Bottle Cafe opens

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR



C MARK RABAGO

MARK RABAGO
The new cafe is located across Imperial Pacific Resort in Garapan.

Opening Drift Bottle Cafe in Garapan early this year was a dream come true for Tony Yan.

"This is my longtime passion and interest to serve good food with quality ingredients and affordable prices," he said.

Located across Imperial Pacific Resort, Drift Bottle Cafe serves different varieties of desserts, a mix of cultural dishes, hot and cold beverages, and donuts.

As for the name of the cafe, Yan said as a child he was fond of stories about putting letters in a bottle and then throwing them into the sea. He romanticized that one day it'll reach someone in a beach somewhere at the other end of the world.

"If you're lucky your wish may come true. It's a story of hope and of love."

The name of the cafe also ties in with Yan's future plans of sending his off-island customers little mementos of their trip to Saipan. "[My] plan is to take photos and develop them then send them to our customers. …Send to our tourists from China, Japan, and Korea. …It's a better keepsake than photos on your phone. I want to use something classic and old-style for my customers to cherish."

Among the desserts and pastries the cafe offers, the bestsellers so far are their donuts, which are packed with flavor and not overly sweet. They've also become famous for their boba tea and handcrafted simple drinks made from only the freshest high-quality ingredients.

As a promotion, Drift Bottle Cafe is giving away free donuts or rolls to all their dine-in customers.

Drift Bottle Cafe, which has a capacity of up to 60 people, is open from 11am to 9pm daily except for Monday when they open from 5pm to 9pm.

For more information, call Drift Bottle Cafe at (670) 287-2377 or (670) 287-8068.

Musk threatens to walk away from Twitter deal

DETROIT (AP)—Elon Musk is threatening to walk away from his $44 billion bid to buy Twitter, accusing the company of refusing to give him information about its spam bot and fake accounts.

Lawyers for the Tesla and SpaceX CEO made the threat in a letter to Twitter dated Monday that the company disclosed in a filing with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission.

The lawyers wrote that Musk has repeatedly asked for the information since May 9, about a month after his offer to buy the company, so he could evaluate how many of the company's 229 million accounts are fake.

Twitter CEO Parag Agrawal has said that Twitter has consistently estimated that fewer than 5% of its accounts are spam. But Musk has disputed that, contending in a May tweet, without providing evidence, that 20% or more are bogus.

Shares of Twitter Inc. slid 1.5% Monday, likely incensing Twitter shareholders who filed a suit against Musk late last month for deflating the price of the stock. Shares of Twitter are down more than 20% in the last month.

Twitter said in a statement Monday that it has been cooperatively sharing information with Musk "in accordance with the terms of the merger agreement" and noted that the deal is in "the best interest of all shareholders."

"We intend to close the transaction and enforce the merger agreement at the agreed price and terms," it added.

Musk agreed to buy Twitter for $54.20 a share back in April. A number of Musk's actions since, including a public spat with Twitter's CEO about the fake accounts—on Twitter—has led some experts to question whether the billionaire wants to use his loud complaints to negotiate a lower deal price or even walk away entirely.

Musk's lawyers wrote in the letter that Twitter has offered only to provide details about the company's testing methods. But they contend that's "tantamount to refusing Mr. Musk's data requests," and constitutes a "material breach" of the merger agreement that gives Musk the right to scrap the deal if he chooses.

Nation

Proud Boys is charged with seditious conspiracy

WASHINGTON (AP)—The former top leader of the far-right Proud Boys extremist group and other members were charged with seditious conspiracy for what federal prosecutors say was a coordinated attack on the U.S. Capitol to stop Congress from certifying President Joe Biden's 2020 electoral victory.

The latest indictment against Henry "Enrique" Tarrio, the former Proud Boys chairman, and four others linked to the group comes as the U.S. House committee investigating the Jan. 6 riot prepares to begin public hearings this week to lay out its findings.

The indictment Monday alleges that the Proud Boys conspired to forcibly oppose the lawful transfer of presidential power. Tarrio and the others—Ethan Nordean, Joseph Biggs, Zachary Rehl and Dominic Pezzola—were previously charged with different conspiracy counts.

They are scheduled to stand trial in August in Washington, D.C.'s federal court.

The seditious conspiracy charges are among the most serious filed so far, but aren't the first of their kind. Eleven members or associates of the anti-government Oath Keepers militia group, including its founder and leader Stewart Rhodes, were indicted in January on seditious conspiracy charges in a serious escalation in the largest investigation in the Justice Department's history.

Three Oath Keepers have already pleaded guilty to the rarely used Civil War-era charge that calls for up to 20 years in prison. The indictment alleges that the Oath Keepers and their associates prepared in the weeks leading up to Jan. 6 as if they were going to war, discussing things like weapons and training.

Tarrio, the group's top leader, wasn't in Washington, D.C., when the riot erupted on Jan. 6, 2021, but authorities say he helped put into motion the violence that day.

Police arrested Tarrio in Washington two days before the riot and charged him with vandalizing a Black Lives Matter banner at a historic Black church during a protest in December 2020. Tarrio was released from jail on Jan. 14 after serving his five-month sentence for that case.

An attorney for Tarrio said his client "is going to have his day in court."

"And we intend to vigorously represent him through that process," said Nayib Hassan.

Defense attorney Carmen Hernendez, who represents Rehl, said her client is "as innocent of these charges as the ones that had already been pending against him."

"Seditious conspiracy requires the use of force, and he never used any force nor thought about using any force," Hernandez said.

More than three dozen people charged in the Capitol siege have been identified by federal authorities as leaders, members or associates of the Proud Boys, whose members describe it as a politically incorrect men's club for "Western chauvinists."

They have brawled with antifascist activists at rallies and protests. Vice Media co-founder Gavin McInnes, who founded the Proud Boys in 2016, sued the Southern Poverty Law Center for labeling it as a hate group.

Proud Boys documentarian is to be among first Jan. 6 witnesses

WASHINGTON (AP)—A documentary filmmaker who recorded members of the far-right Proud Boys extremist group as they stormed the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021, says he will testify during the first hearing of the House panel investigating the insurrection.

Nick Quested, a British filmmaker who also witnessed some of the group's planning before the attack on the Capitol, confirmed to The Associated Press that he will be among the witnesses in Thursday night's prime-time hearing. The panel has not yet announced a full list of those who will testify.

Quested was a witness to some of the most extraordinary events that took place that day, accompanying members of the extremist group as they walked to the Capitol from President Donald Trump's speech in front of the White House, as they broke through police barriers and eventually into the building, and as hundreds of Trump's supporters moved through the Capitol to protest his defeat.

Quested was also with the man then leading the group, Henry "Enrique" Tarrio, the night before when Tarrio met in an underground Washington garage with Elmer "Stewart" Rhodes, the founder and leader of the Oath Keepers, another extremist group present at the riot.

Tarrio and other members of the group were charged on Monday with seditious conspiracy for what federal prosecutors say was a coordinated attack on the Capitol to stop Congress from certifying President Joe Biden's 2020 electoral victory. Rhodes was indicted on similar charges earlier this year.

Quested says he was interviewed by the Justice Department as it prosecuted hundreds of cases related to the insurrection. He says he was filming the group as part of a documentary about extremism in America.

Quested is expected to describe his experiences and potentially what he witnessed behind closed doors, as the Jan. 6 panel begins a month of hearings to explain to the American public what happened that day and how it occurred. The committee has conducted more than 1,000 interviews since last summer as it has attempted to create the most comprehensive record yet of the insurrection.

Thursday's hearing is expected to be an overview of the committee's findings, with other hearings in the coming weeks diving into more specifics of the planning behind the attack. The panel has been especially focused not only on the extremist groups that were among the rioters but also on what Trump was doing at the White House while the violence unfolded.

Federal authorities have linked more than three dozen people charged in the Capitol siege to the Proud Boys. Its members describe it as a politically incorrect men's club for "Western chauvinists."

Quested's intention to testify was first reported by The New York Times.

Asia

US, S. Korea fly fighter jets amid North Korea tensions

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—The South Korean and U.S. militaries flew 20 fighter jets over South Korea's western sea Tuesday in a continued show of force as a senior U.S. official warned of a forceful response if North Korea goes ahead with its first nuclear test explosion in nearly five years.

South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said the air demonstration involved 16 South Korean planes – including F-35A stealth fighters – and four U.S. F-16 fighter jets and was aimed at demonstrating their ability to swiftly respond to North Korean provocations.

The flight came a day after the allies fired eight surface-to-surface missiles into South Korea's eastern waters to match a weekend missile display by North Korea, which fired the same number of missiles from multiple locations on Sunday in what was likely its biggest single-day testing event.

North Korea may soon up the amp as U.S. and South Korean officials say the country is all but ready to conduct another detonation at its nuclear testing ground in the northeastern town of Punggye-ri. Its last test and seventh overall was in September 2017, when it claimed to have detonated a thermonuclear bomb designed for its intercontinental ballistic missiles.

Traveling to Seoul to discuss the standoff with South Korean and Japanese allies, U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman warned of a "swift and forceful" response if the North carries out another nuclear test.

While the Biden administration has vowed to push for additional international sanctions if North Korea goes on with the nuclear test, the prospects for meaningful new punitive measures are unclear with the U.N. Security Council divided.

"Any nuclear test would be in complete violation of U.N. Security Council resolutions. There would be a swift and forceful response to such a test," Sherman said, following a meeting with South Korea Vice Foreign Minister Cho Hyun-dong.

"We continue to urge Pyongyang to cease its destabilizing and provocative activities and choose the path of diplomacy," she said.

Sherman and Cho are planning a trilateral meeting with Japanese Vice Foreign Minister Mori Takeo on Wednesday over the North Korean nuclear issue.

North Korea's launches on Sunday extended a provocative streak in weapons tests this year that also included the country's first demonstrations of ICBMs since 2017.

Since taking power in 2011, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has accelerated his weapons development despite limited resources. Experts say with its next test, North Korea could claim an ability to build small bombs that could be clustered on a multiwarhead ICBM or fit on short-range missiles that could reach South Korea and Japan.

Rafael Mariano Grossi, director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency, said Monday there are indications that one of the passages at the Punggye-ri testing ground has been reopened, possibly in preparations for a nuclear test.

Hours before Sherman's meeting in Seoul, State Department spokesperson Ned Price told reporters in Washington that the United States remains concerned that North Korea could seek is seventh test "in the coming days."

ASIAN BRIEFS

Muslim nations slam India over insulting remarks about Islam

NEW DELHI (AP)—India is facing major diplomatic outrage from Muslim-majority countries after top officials in the governing Hindu nationalist party made derogatory references to Islam and the Prophet Muhammad, drawing accusations of blasphemy across some Arab nations that have left New Delhi struggling to contain the damaging fallout. At least five Arab nations have lodged official protests against India, and Pakistan and Afghanistan also reacted strongly Monday to the comments made by two prominent spokespeople from Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party. Anger has poured out on social media, and calls for a boycott of Indian goods have surfaced in some Arab nations. At home, it has led to protests against Modi's party in some parts of the country. The controversial remarks follow increasing violence targeting India's Muslim minority carried out by Hindu nationalists who have been emboldened by Modi's regular silence about such attacks since he was first elected in 2014.

Singapore prime minister promotes likely successor to deputy

SINGAPORE (AP)—Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong has promoted his finance minister to his deputy as part of a succession plan, but the timing of the handover is unclear. His office said Tuesday that Lawrence Wong, 49, would become deputy prime minister on June 13 as part of a Cabinet reshuffle. Wong, who will retain his finance portfolio, will be acting prime minister in Lee's absence, it said. "The next generation leadership is taking shape. I ask everyone to give your full support to this important transition, to steer Singapore safely out of the pandemic and into a brighter future," Lee said on Facebook. Lee, 70, has said Wong would take over the reins either before or after general elections due in 2025. Lee's People's Action Party, one of the world's longest serving parties, saw its worst election performance in 2020. Although it retained its super majority, it lost some seats and support slipped.

Container depot fire spotlights Bangladesh industrial safety

CHITTAGONG, Bangladesh (AP)—Authorities in Bangladesh struggled Monday to determine the cause of a devastating fire that killed at least 41 people, including nine firefighters, and injured more than 100 others at a shipping container storage depot, as experts raised concerns over the country's industrial safety standards. Efforts to fully extinguish the fire at the BM Inland Container Depot, a Dutch-Bangladesh joint venture near the country's main Chittagong Seaport, continued Monday after it broke out around midnight Saturday following explosions in a container full of chemicals. The explosions were felt as far as 4 kilometers (2 1/2 miles) away, officials and local media said. Authorities said there were more than 4,000 containers at the depot, of which about 1,000 were filled with materials including chemicals.

World

Russia now returning bodies from steel mill

Ukrainian servicemen maneuver a tank near the frontline in Donetsk region, eastern Ukraine, Monday, June 6, 2022. AP

KYIV, Ukraine (AP)—Russia has begun turning over the bodies of Ukrainian fighters killed at the Azovstal steelworks, the fortress-like plant in the destroyed city of Mariupol where their last-ditch stand became a symbol of resistance against Moscow's invasion.

Dozens of the dead taken from the bombed-out mill's now Russian-occupied ruins have been transferred to the Ukrainian capital, Kyiv, where DNA testing is underway to identify the remains, according to both a military leader and a spokeswoman for the Azov Regiment.

The Azov Regiment was among the Ukrainian units that defended the steelworks for nearly three months before surrendering in May under relentless Russian attacks from the ground, sea and air.

It was unclear how many bodies might remain at the plant.

Meanwhile, Russian forces continued to fight for control of Sievierodonetsk, an eastern Ukrainian city that is key to Moscow's goal of completing the capture of the industrial Donbas region.

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Ukrainian forces were holding their positions in the city amid fierce fighting in the streets as Russia tries to deploy more forces.

"But it is the 103rd day, and the Ukrainian Donbas stands. It stands firmly," he said in his nightly address to the nation.

Zelenskyy also said Moscow's forces intend to take the southeastern city of Zaporizhzhia, home to more than 700,000 people, a move that could severely weaken Ukraine's standing and allow the Russian military to advance closer to the center of the country.

"In the Zaporizhzhia region ... there is the most threatening situation there," Zelenskyy said.

The Ukrainian fighters' dogged defense of the steel mill frustrated the Kremlin's objective of quickly capturing Mariupol and tied down Russian forces in the strategic port city.

WORLD BRIEFS

Weakened UK leader Boris Johnson survives no-confidence vote

LONDON (AP)—British Prime Minister Boris Johnson survived a no-confidence vote on Monday, securing enough support from his Conservative Party to remain in office despite a substantial rebellion that leaves him a weakened leader with an uncertain future. Known for his ability to shrug off scandals, the charismatic leader has struggled to turn the page on revelations that he and his staff repeatedly held boozy parties that flouted the COVID-19 restrictions they imposed on others. Support among his fellow Conservative lawmakers has weakened as some see a leader renowned for his ability to connect with voters increasingly as a liability rather than an asset in elections. Johnson won the backing of 211 out of 359 Conservative lawmakers in a secret ballot, more than the simple majority needed to remain in power, but still a significant rebellion of 148 MPs.

Cabinet minister in Dominican Republic slain in his office

SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic (AP)—The Dominican Republic's minister of the environment and natural resources—the son of a former president—was shot to death in his office by a close friend Monday, the office of the president said in a statement. Authorities said Orlando Jorge Mera was shot by Fausto Miguel de Jesús Cruz de la Mota, who was later arrested at a church dozens of blocks away after telling a priest he committed a crime and handed over a gun to him. Officials gave no motive for the shooting, and it wasn't immediately clear if Cruz, 56, had an attorney.

British writer, Brazil Indigenous official missing in Amazon

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP)—A British journalist and an Indigenous affairs official are still missing in a remote part of Brazil's Amazon as authorities say they are expanding search efforts in the area, which has seen violent conflicts between fishermen, poachers and government agents. Dom Phillips, who has been a regular contributor to the British newspaper the Guardian, and Bruno Araújo Pereira were last seen early Sunday in the Sao Rafael community, reported the Univaja association of people in the Vale do Javari Indigenous territory, for which Pereira has been an adviser. The pair was returning by boat from the Vale do Javari and bound for the city of Atalaia do Norte, about an hour away, but never showed up.

Good Housekeeping

Is track lighting the right choice for your home?

By JAMES FIGY
ANGIE'S LIST

When used correctly, track lighting highlights a room's best features.

Track lighting helps homeowners spotlight pieces of art or pieces of furniture. With an electrical current flowing through the track, this popular product allows homeowners to change or reposition individual fixtures after installation. But track lighting, which first received a patent more than 50 years ago, is just one option for interior lighting.

Whether you're taking on a complete home remodel or just trying to brighten up a room, consider these pros and cons before choosing track lighting.

When used correctly, track lighting highlights a room's best features. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Pro: It's easy to install

Track lighting is no more difficult to install than regular lighting, says Brandon Hill, director of purchasing and specifications for Kopke Remodeling & Design in Sterling Heights, Mich. It simply requires more attention to placement, he adds.

Homeowners may prefer track lighting if they don't want to cut into the ceiling to run wire and add electrical boxes, says Shelley McNaughton, owner of Shelley McNaughton Design Associates in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. "One of the reasons you want to use it is because you want lighting in a certain part of a room but you can't get into the ceiling," she says.

Con: The fixtures may cost more

Compared to other fixtures, which connect directly to an electrical box, track lighting isn't the cheapest option, McNaughton says. The type of fixtures and length of track also impact the cost, she adds.

Many tracks with directional fixtures cost between $50 and $100 for an almost 4-foot track. However, longer tracks with more fixtures could cost more than $500. Any special fixtures will cost more. Also, the project will require a few hours of labor, and licensed electricians usually charge $50 to $100 per hour, according to CostHelper.com.

Pro: It highlights specific features well

"Track lighting would be (useful) when you want to light something specifically," McNaughton says. Directional fixtures can spotlight artwork on a gallery wall or a piece of furniture, while hanging pendants shine downward onto a kitchen island, table or some other surface, she says.

Con: It provides poor general lighting

Hill says homeowners should consider the type of light source needed, the type of bulbs they want, what the room is used for and the ambiance they want. Homeowners should choose lighting based on these needs and use track lighting only when appropriate.

If track lighting is the right choice, homeowners should use it to highlight specific features of a room, not the entire room, Hill says.

While track lighting works well in kitchens and living rooms, which often have auxiliary light sources, McNaughton doesn't recommend it for bathrooms and smaller spaces.

Pro: It comes in many different styles

With a plethora of different track and fixture styles, homeowners can easily find something to fit their decor. This rings especially true in contemporary settings, Hill says.

"Design-wise, track has a more modern or eclectic feel," he says.

Con: It sometimes looks clunky

In some settings, the track and additional hardware may make a ceiling too busy, McNaughton says. She often recommends recessed lighting with directional heads as an alternative. But in many cases, she adds, track lighting proves a good option.

"Depending on how they're used in the room, track lighting usually works," McNaughton says. "... It's just one of those things that you know when you're going to use and you know when you're not."

James Figy is a reporter at www.angieslist.com, a trusted provider of local consumer reviews and an online marketplace of services from top-rated providers.

Tips to extend the life of home appliances

By MICHAEL SCHROEDER
ANGIE'S LIST

Show your workhorse appliances a little TLC, and they may stick around a bit longer.

Replacing a refrigerator or oven range can take a bite out of your budget, as can buying a new washer or dryer. To make sure your appliances stand the test of time and continue to perform, follow these pointers:

Keep your fridge and freezer clean

In general, appliances operate best when spick-and-span. Besides regularly cleaning up leftovers in the fridge, keep condenser coils clean, says Bud Eader, manager at Bettar Appliance in Kensington, Md. Do so by using a condenser coil brush.

To clean the freezer, unplug it, remove all food, wipe it down with a baking-soda solution, use water to rinse it, and then dry the freezer with a towel before plugging it back in.

Defrost your freezer

Many freezers today are frost-free. However, if you have a manual defrost freezer, plan to defrost it at least once every year, before frost gets to about a half-inch thick. Use a plastic or wooden scrape _ no knives or other sharp instruments _ to remove the frost layer.

Scrub your oven and range, too

Clean inside your oven often and never let food debris stick around on burners, even if it requires a bit of elbow grease to remove.

Don't spray cleaning fluid directly on control panels though, which could cause them to short circuit. Instead, apply a little onto a rag to clean that surface.

Don't foil your oven

Experts debate whether you should use the self-cleaning feature if your oven comes with one, but they agree you shouldn't use aluminum foil under the baking element.

Replace filters

Whether it's a charcoal filter in an oven, a filter in some dishwashers or refrigerators or the one in your furnace, follow manufacturer guidelines to clean and/or replace them as directed.

Don't use dish soap in the dishwasher

This can hamper the machine's performance by creating gunky buildup. Use only dish detergent.

Scrape off plates

Food debris can clog dishwasher pumps. "It's going to stop up the spray arms and, in the case of emptying the water out, it's possibly going to make the pump ... fail prematurely," Eader says.

Don't overload your clothes washing machine

Doing so adds strain on the motor, tub bearings and other parts, besides not getting your clothes clean if water and detergent can't swish between them. "You shorten the life of the machine," Eader says.

Instead, follow the owner manual instructions on how much to load. Hint: If your machine is banging around under the weight of all of your laundry, you've gone overboard.

Improve your dryer's circulation

Often forgotten, the lint screen needs to be cleaned regularly. Failing to do or allowing your dryer vent to become clogged will force your dryer to work overtime (read: retire sooner) and can present a serious fire hazard. Plan to have your dryer's exhaust system cleaned annually.

Watch where you apply stain removers

Spraying it on top of washers or dryers can corrode painted or plastic parts.

Should I install a driveway alarm?

By PAUL POGUE
ANGIE'S LIST

Just like a security light attached to a motion sensor, a driveway alarm uses a wired or wireless sensor to inform you when someone's walked or driven onto your driveway.

A few of our experts weigh in on different driveway alert systems and the pros and cons of wired and wireless alarm options.

WHAT IS A DRIVEWAY ALARM SYSTEM?

"They're mounted on a post in your driveway, and it sets off a chime inside your house whenever something moves in front of the sensor," says Randy Reed, owner of Reed Brothers Security in Oakland, Calif. "You'll know if someone is walking or driving down your driveway. It comes in handy if you're waiting on a package delivery or the postman."

Joe Fabrizio, owner of JFab Design in Worcester, Pa., says driveway alerts come in two basic types: easily installed wireless sensors and more complex wired systems with lines buried in the yard.

HOW MUCH DO DRIVEWAY ALARMS COST?

For a good wireless alert system from a trusted manufacturer such as Optex, Reed says to be prepared to pay a few hundred dollars. "You can buy a knockoff system for cheaper than that, but if you buy generic, you'll be paying for it in decreased quality," he says.

A wired system from a manufacturer such as Cartell can cost up to a few thousand dollars, according to Fabrizio, because it involves more parts, professional expertise and running one or more lines across your yard.

WHAT ARE THE ADVANTAGES OF A BURIED SYSTEM OVER A WIRELESS ALARM?

Although it's more expensive, Fabrizio says a buried system offers much more flexibility.

"It's more robust and can do a lot more than just set off a chime," he says. "You can wire it into a home automation system and program it to do specific things at specific times. You might have certain lights turn on for a certain period of time as a car comes through, so you're not pulling up to a dark house.

"I just wired a house so that all the speakers set off a sound when a car comes through, but they only do it during the day, so you don't get the loud sound at night," Fabrizio adds.

He says buried systems can also communicate with mobile devices. For instance, you can receive a text message whenever a car comes into your driveway.

A buried system also offers more precision, since it measures the size of whatever's passing by it and only sets off for something larger, such as a car. A wireless sensor usually uses a beam of light and sets off whenever something breaks the beam.

"It's just there to tell you something moved out front," Reed says. "A dog or bird can set it off as easily as a car."

SHOULD YOU DO IT YOURSELF?

Reed says homeowners can install a wireless alarm system themselves without much trouble.

"You plug in one box in an outlet inside, and the other box on a post outside," he says. "You just need to make sure you don't place it so far that the signal can't reach inside your house. You'll get the best range if there's a direct line of sight with as few obstructions as possible between the two units. The average range is about 200 feet."

Fabrizio says homeowners should leave wired systems to the professionals, since it involves burying electrical lines and connecting to the house's physical wiring.

Paul Pogue is a reporter at www.angieslist.com, a trusted provider of local consumer reviews and an online marketplace of services from top-rated providers.

Life & Style

‘Donkey Kong defense’ arises at Bill Cosby sex abuse trial

SANTA MONICA, Calif. (AP)—The “Donkey Kong defense” came into play Monday at a civil trial over sexual assault allegations against Bill Cosby, as his attorney pressed a key witness over previous statements that she had played the arcade game during a visit with Cosby to the Playboy Mansion in 1975, six years before its release.

The testimony came in the Los Angeles County trial over the lawsuit of Judy Huth, who also began testifying Monday, but did not yet describe her allegation that Cosby sexually assaulted her at the Playboy Mansion when she was 16. Cosby denies her allegations.

Donna Samuelson, a high school friend of Huth’s who accompanied her and Cosby on a visit to the mansion, returned to the stand Monday, testifying about the game room with an adjacent bedroom where Huth says Cosby forced her to perform a sex act.

“You testified multiple times that you were playing Donkey Kong,” Cosby attorney Jennifer Bonjean told Samuelson, referring to a 2014 police interview and a 2016 deposition in Huth’s case.

“If I did I did,” Samuelson said. “I understand it wasn’t around yet.”

Bonjean played a clip from the deposition, in which Samuelson referred to the game several times.

Asked Monday to explain the discrepancy, Samuelson answered, “I got the name wrong. I just kept saying that because it was a game. It could have been Atari.”

She also said she was playing the game when Cosby came up behind her and put his hands on her shoulders before she shook them off.

AP

Bill Cosby arrives for his sexual assault trial in Norristown, Pa. on April 20, 2018, left, and Judy Huth appears at a press conference outside the Los Angeles Police Department’s Wilshire Division station in Los Angeles on Dec. 5, 2014.

Bonjean showed Samuelson and the jury a photo of the game room taken in 2016, where a Donkey Kong game could be seen, and asked whether similar photos taken years after 1975 could have affected her memory and testimony.

Samuelson replied that she hadn’t seen such an image until the 2016 photo was shown to her in court during her testimony last week.

During his opening statement on Wednesday, Huth’s attorney Nathan Goldberg sought to head off the issue, telling jurors they were going to be hearing “the Donkey Kong defense” from Cosby’s lawyers.

“So she got the name wrong,” Goldberg said, “so what?”

Bonjean embraced the term in her opening, saying Huth’s similar prior statements about Samuelson playing the game, and photos showing it in the room later, were evidence that the two women were coordinating a false story.

The trial represents one of the last remaining legal claims against Cosby after his Pennsylvania criminal conviction was thrown out and other lawsuits were settled by his insurer against his will.

Huth, 64, briefly took the stand late Monday, recalling the spring day in 1975 when she and Samuelson took her brother’s dog to play frisbee at Lacy Park in San Marino, California, a place they frequented.

She said they noticed a production was happening there that would turn out to be a shoot for the film “Let’s Do It Again.” They saw stars Sidney Poitier, Jimmie Walker and Cosby, Huth said.

She remembered whispering, “That’s Bill Cosby” to Samuelson, and Cosby playfully mimicking her whisper and pretending to be holding a leash of his own dog.

Spain honors Penélope Cruz for contribution to cinema

MADRID (AP)—Penélope Cruz has won one of Spain’s top film awards for her contribution to Spanish cinema, the country’s ministry of culture said Monday.

The jury of the 2022 National Cinema award was unanimous in its decision to honor the Madrid-born star, describing the 48-year-old Oscar winner in a statement as an “iconic actress whose brilliant legacy enriches Spain’s cultural heritage.”

“Committed to her craft, she seeks excellence in her work, allowing her to create some of the most unforgettable characters in the history of our cinema,” the jury added.

Cruz

The recognition is the latest addition to Cruz’s long list of accolades, from an Academy Award for best supporting actress in “Vicky Cristina Barcelona,” to top awards at the Cannes and Venice Film Festival for her performances in “Volver” and “Parallel Mothers.”

Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez congratulated Cruz soon after the award was announced.

“She is the embodiment of cinema, both Spanish and international,” Sánchez tweeted, citing her “immense talent and exceptional performances.”

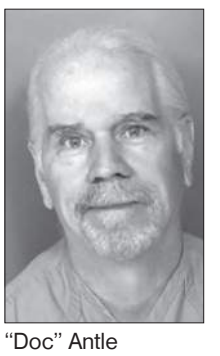
Past winners of the award include actor Antonio Banderas and director Isabel Coixet.

‘Tiger King’ star Doc Antle is charged with money laundering

By MEG KINNARD
ASSOCIATED PRESS

“Tiger King” star Bhagavan “Doc” Antle has been charged with laundering more than half a million dollars, money federal prosecutors said Monday that he believed to be the proceeds of an operation to smuggle people across the Mexican border into the United States.

Charges against Antle and Andrew Jon Sawyer, one of Antle’s employees at Myrtle Beach Safari, were revealed during a federal court hearing in Florence, South Carolina.



“Doc” Antle

According to federal prosecutors, Antle and Sawyer laundered $505,000 over a four-month period by doling out checks from businesses they controlled, receiving a 15% fee of the money that passed through their hands.

The checks, prosecutors allege, falsely purported to be payment for construction work at Myrtle Beach Safari but were in reality intended to serve as evidence that the recipients had legitimate income.

According to the complaint unsealed in court Monday, Antle discussed his plan to conceal the cash he received by inflating tourist numbers at his 50-acre (20-hectare) wildlife tropical preserve. Prosecutors also said he had previously used bulk cash receipts to purchase animals for which he could not use checks.

Russian opera ‘Boris Godunov’ to open next La Scala season

MILAN (AP)—Milan’s famed La Scala opera house on Monday announced the celebration of next season’s gala premiere with the Russian opera “Boris Godunov,” a move it hopes will underline the separation of culture from politics.

La Scala’s 2022-23 calendar, set long before Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, also features a host of Russian stars singing roles in “Boris Godunov” as well as other titles, including soprano Anna Netrebko in “Macbeth.”

“We hope that we will have a St. Ambrose (feast day) that will also celebrate peace,” said Mayor Giuseppe Sala, who is president of La Scala’s board, calling the opera by Modest Mussorgsky “a masterpiece.”

He referred to the Dec. 7 feast day for Milan’s patron saint, when La Scala holds its gala season opener each year, one of the most anticipated events of the European cultural calendar.

First wife has second thoughts on polygamy

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I are in our 40s. Last year, we decided to make a very big change in our lives. We decided to seek out a second wife (sister wife) for my husband. I was completely on board with it at first. He reached out to a woman he knew years ago and asked if she would consider joining our family. However, I started getting this feeling that she wasn’t the right woman to bring into our family. She ignored many of my in-depth questions about why she wanted to live this type of life.

I have expressed to my husband that I no longer want her in my life and it has reached the point that I no longer want to live a plural lifestyle. I felt bad that I’m the one who changed my mind, so I agreed to allow them to continue a relationship—as long as they keep me out of it, and he keeps her out of my home and my life.

I don’t understand how he can continue living this way, living two separate lives and be OK with it. We’ve been together more than 20 years and I don’t want to leave, but how can I continue loving a man with my whole heart and soul when he only loves me with part of his?

SISTER WIFE

DEAR WIFE: Relationships such as you describe can work out when all three of the parties involved feel they are equally valued. Some women tolerate their husband having someone “on the side” because they derive some benefit beyond the emotional connection one associates with marriage. That said, in the final analysis, the only person who can answer the question you’re asking me is you.

■■■■

DEAR ABBY: I am an 11-year-old girl. My 16-year-old sister has severe depression and an eating disorder. She has been to the hospital twice because of it, and now she has to go to the hospital every day to get her to eat more. Even though people are helping her, I don’t think she’s getting better. It makes me feel worried and sad.

My mom has me seeing a therapist, and she helps me to feel better, but it’s still hard knowing my sister is having such a hard time. I have never dealt with anything this hard in my life. I wish I could just not have to always think about how sad I am. I really want everything to be normal. Can you tell me ways to not get so upset about everything that’s going on?

HAVING A HARD TIME IN IOWA

DEAR HAVING A HARD TIME: I’m glad you are seeing a therapist you can talk to about your sadness and worry. Being able to discuss them with someone you trust and who isn’t emotionally involved can be a blessing.

I do have a suggestion that might help you in addition to your therapy. Participate in sports activities and hobbies that keep your mind occupied. If you keep yourself busy, you will have less time to dwell on your sadness and worry. And please, write me again in a couple of months and let me know how you are doing, because I’m hopeful you will be feeling better than you do right now.

■■■■

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

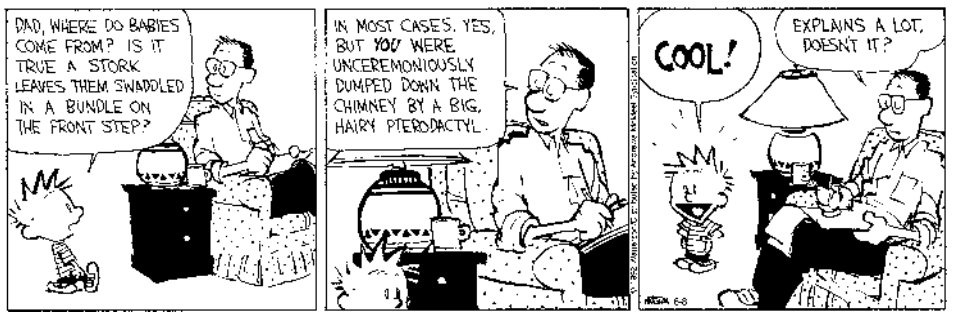
By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

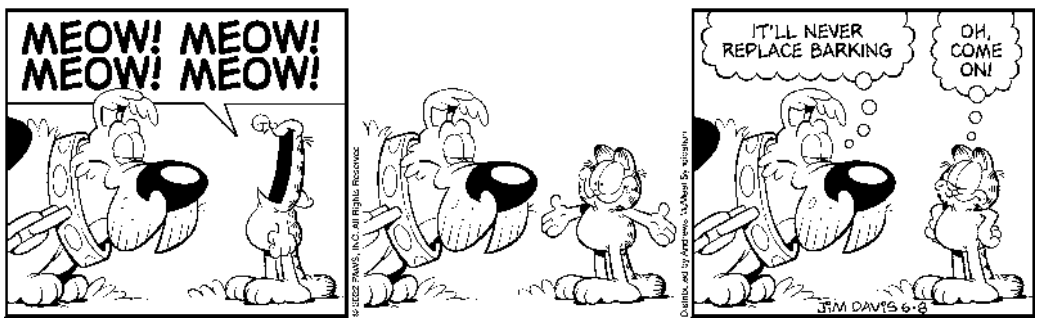
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


DAD, WHERE DO BABIES COME FROM? IS IT TRUE A STORK LEAVES THEM SWADDLED IN A BUNDLE ON THE FRONT STEP?
IN MOST CASES, YES, BUT YOU WERE UNCEREMONIOUSLY DUMPED DOWN THE CHIMNEY BY A BIG, HAIRY PTERODACTYL.
COOL!
EXPLAINS A LOT, DOESN'T IT?

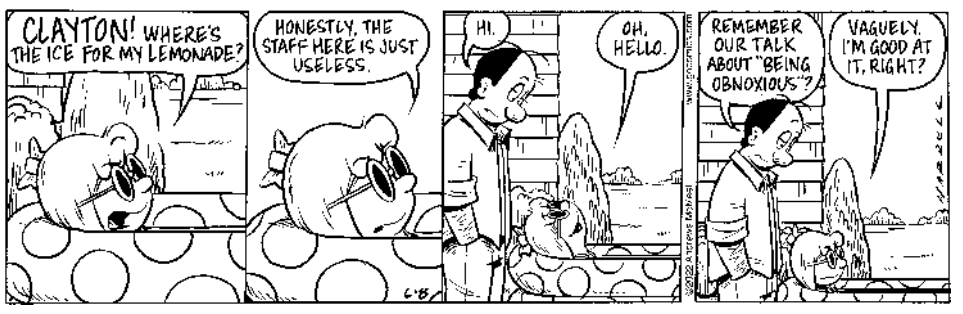
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



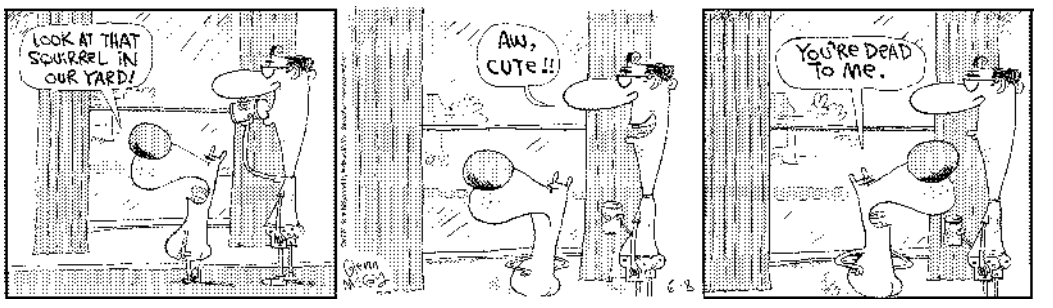
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


CLAYTON! WHERE'S THE ICE FOR MY LEMONADE?
HONESTLY, THE STAFF HERE IS JUST USELESS.
HI.
OH, HELLO.
REMEMBER OUR TALK ABOUT "BEING OBNOXIOUS"?
VAGUELY. I'M GOOD AT IT, RIGHT?

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Aspiring atty.'s exam
5 Distant
8 Bands on radios
12 Pond growth
13 Poem of praise
14 "Encore!"
15 Chess game reminder
17 Peron and Longoria
18 Not standing
19 Sheets, pillowcases, etc.
21 Six, in Sicily
22 Fizzy drink
23 "Stay with Me" singer Smith
26 Aviv preceder
28 Less dated
31 Marriage vows
33 Lengthy lunch?
35 Hamlet, e.g.
36 Yielded
38 Petrol
40 Still
41 Ireland
43 "Certainly!"
45 Perfect place
47 Feral feline
51 Sitarist Shankar
52 "Stay!"
54 Detail, briefly
55 Rage
56 Furniture brand
57 Saab model
58 Literary rep
59 Go under

DOWN

1 Potato chip brand
2 — gin fizz
3 Water, to Juan
4 Small fruit pies
5 Restaurant fans
6 Adj. modifier
7 Film spools
8 Revised
9 Relocate
10 Humorist Lebowitz
11 Disarray
16 Bump into
20 Charged bit
23 Bracketed word
24 Oklahoma city
25 Make room on a bench
27 Schlep
29 Compass dir.
30 Emeritus, briefly
32 Classic Pacino film
34 Rifle attachment
37 Cato's 502
39 Denomination
42 Gymnast Comaneci
44 Big rigs
45 — Major
46 Carton sealer
48 Mischievous Norse god
49 Roasting spot
50 Ship wood
53 Assoc.

Solution time: 23 mins.

G	O	T	H		I	N	D		B	A	B	
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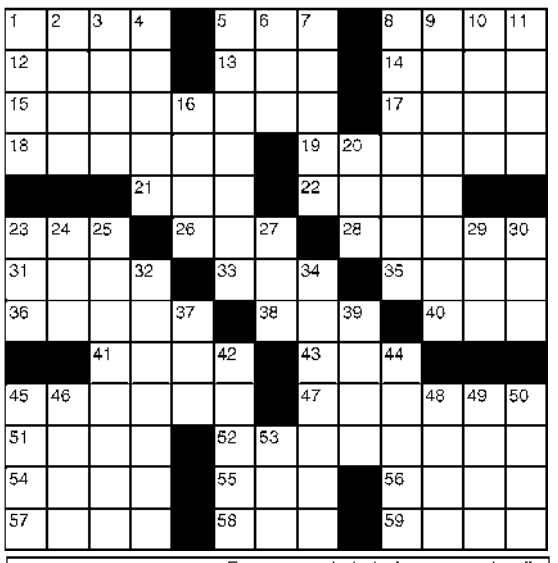
C	O	A	L	S		C	A	P	R	I	C	E
A	B	R	A		D	U	D		E		A	L
F	I	G	M	E	N	T		T	E	E	N	S
			E	R	A		O	W	N			
D	I	N	G	F		D	I		C	S	T	
O	R	C	A		B	A	D	G	I	R	L	S
S	K	I	M		U	N	E		V	E	E	
E	S	S	E		I	A	H		Y	E	W	S

Yesterday's answer 6-8



STUMPED? For answers lo today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Maria Menounos, 44; Kanye West, 45; Julianna Margulies, 56; Keenen Ivory Wayans, 64.

Happy Birthday: Decide what's possible and profitable before you agree to participate. Take it upon yourself to hunt for the truth; build a solid plan that you can do alone. A change of heart regarding how you feel about life will send you on a search for happiness. Added discipline and hard work will result in success and gratitude. Your numbers are 9, 17, 25, 28, 34, 38, 41.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Keep life simple. Don't get upset over something that doesn't matter. Stay focused on what counts and what will help you get where you want to go. Expand your interests, and make health and fitness your priorities. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Push for what you want, and don't stop until you get your way. You'll receive valuable information that helps you make sound financial decisions. Don't ignore an opportunity. If you want something, do your part. ✪✪✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Take care of details, updates and red-tape issues. Leaving responsibilities in someone's hands will lead to disappointment. Emotional deception is apparent. Don't believe everything you hear and don't make assumptions. Be direct, ask questions and make sound decisions. ✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Let your imagination run wild, and you'll come up with ideas that can help you make a profit. Personal changes will give you confidence and encourage you to follow through with your plans. Invest time and money in getting ahead.✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Proceed with caution. Go over details and adjust only what's necessary. Pay more attention to what others do, and learn as much as possible to avoid waste. Keep your eye on the ball and your emotions in check. Trust your instincts. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Target what you want to achieve, and apply your energy and enthusiasm to get the results you want. A compassionate attitude will encourage others to help you reach your objective on time. A lifestyle change will give you a big boost. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Reluctance to get your hands dirty will cost you. Don't hold back, especially when taking care of business is essential to improving your life and achieving peace of mind. Refuse to let your emotions cause you to overreact. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Quickly take care of domestic matters. Venture out and see what's going on in your neighborhood. Touch base with a close friend, relative or peer, and you'll find valuable information that encourages you to try something new. Romance is featured. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Reaching out to someone struggling will give you a different perspective on life. Your wisdom and experience will help you pursue something you enjoy. Mix business with pleasure, and opportunities to work alongside people you like will transpire. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Anger will become a problem. Don't react to what someone does or says. Carry out domestic changes that will make it easier for you to get the support you need to follow through with your plans. ✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Be a good listener, and it will help you understand what others are experiencing. Don't jump to conclusions; ask questions, make suggestions and do what you can to make things better. Be part of the solution, not the problem. Embrace peace. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* You'll develop some impressive plans that can set the stage for raising your earning potential. Reach out to people who appreciate your skills, and you will discover new ways to put your attributes to good use. Self-improvement is featured. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are insightful, precise and original. You are sensitive and kind.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

				9				
5	2		8	4	6		7	3
	9		1		2	4		8
	8		4		1			9
	1		3		9			5
	4	2				8	3	
		7				3		
			7		5			
			9	6	4			

Difficulty Level ★★★ 6/08

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

4	2	6	5	8	7	1	3	9
1	9	8	4	3	6	2	7	5
7	5	3	9	2	1	6	4	8
9	6	5	7	1	3	4	8	2
3	1	2	8	6	4	5	9	7
8	7	4	2	9	5	3	1	6
6	8	9	1	4	2	7	5	3
5	3	1	6	7	9	8	2	4
2	4	7	3	5	8	9	6	1

Difficulty Level ★★

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

'SELLING SUNSET' (NETFLIX SERIES) Solution: 9 letters

C	B	C	T	H	G	I	F	A	M	O	U	S	N	L
O	H	H	V	I	L	L	E	L	A	P	S	T	O	L
M	N	R	R	N	I	A	M	O	R	P	T	S	D	A
M	A	I	I	E	L	L	E	B	Y	E	A	R	N	R
I	N	S	F	S	H	I	R	E	R	N	U	D	A	S
S	R	T	I	R	H	T	E	B	G	H	S	A	R	A
S	E	I	T	E	O	E	A	E	D	E	E	V	B	S
I	H	N	Z	Y	S	T	L	E	M	I	K	I	K	S
O	V	E	G	U	E	E	E	L	H	M	V	N	E	E
N	A	L	E	B	S	N	S	S	T	G	A	A	R	N
O	N	I	R	M	U	N	T	L	I	R	N	Q	A	A
S	D	T	A	E	O	O	A	A	M	O	Ⓜ	U	T	V
A	E	E	L	R	H	B	T	O	S	U	Ⓐ	I	O	A
J	R	G	D	S	T	N	E	G	A	P	Ⓓ	N	E	Y
D	I	V	E	L	L	O	A	Y	A	M	Ⓐ	N	Z	A

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Adam, Agents, Amanza, Bell, Bonnet, Brandon, Brett, Buyers, Chrishell, Christine, Commission, Davina, Diva, DiVello, Dreams, Elite, Emma, Famous, Fight, Fitzgerald, Goals, Heather, Hernan, Hire, Houses, Jason, Larsa, Los Angeles, Mary, Maya, Oppenheim Group, Quinn, Real Estate, Romain, Smith, Stause, Tarek, Vander, Vanessa, Villela, Young

Yesterday's Answer: Obstacles

The NEW **Treasury 48** can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

Escobar hits for cycle, has 6 RBIs as Mets beat Padres, 11-5

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Eduardo Escobar hit a two-run triple with two outs in the ninth inning to complete his first cycle, giving him six RBIs in boosting Carlos Carrasco and the New York Mets to an 11-5 win Monday night against the San Diego Padres.

Escobar tripled off Tim Hill over the head of right fielder Nomar Mazara in a four-run ninth. The switch-hitter pulled into third base and pumped his fist as teammates cheered in the dugout nearby.

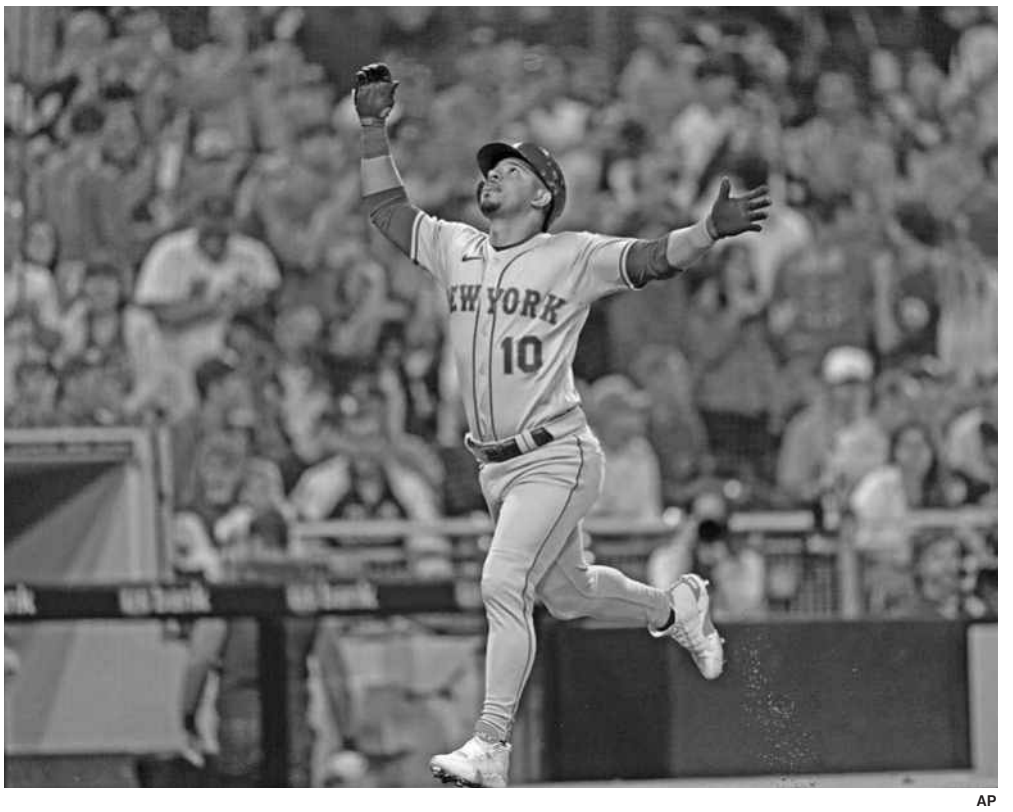
The third baseman hit a two-run moonshot homer that sailed well over the party deck atop the right field wall off Craig Stammen with no outs in the eighth. It was his fifth.

Escobar also hit a two-run single in the first and a double in the fourth.

It was the 11th cycle in Mets history and the first since Scott Hairston on April 27, 2012.

It was also the first cycle at Petco Park, which opened in 2004.

The Mets, who are an NL-best 38-19, won their third straight game and for the ninth time in 11 games. The Padres, who have the NL's third-best record at 33-22, had their three-game winning streak snapped.



AP

New York Mets' Eduardo Escobar reacts after hitting a two-run home run during the eighth inning of a baseball game against the San Diego Padres, Monday, June 6, 2022, in San Diego.

Carrasco (7-1) won his fourth straight start by holding the Padres to two runs and five hits in seven innings while striking out a season-high 10 and walking none. He limited the damage to two innings. Jorge Alfaro hit a leadoff double down the right field line leading off the third and scored on Jurickson Profar's one-out RBI single. Kim Ha-seong singled with two outs in the seventh and scored on Mazara's double.

The Mets tagged Blake Snell (0-3) with three runs in a plodding first inning that took 27 minutes while the left-hander threw 43 pitches. He allowed Starling Marte's one-out single, struck out Francisco Lindor and then issued three straight walks to force in a run. Escobar followed with a two-run single.

The Padres had Nabil Crismatt warming in the bullpen before Snell retired Jeff McNeil.

Escobar doubled leading off the fourth and scored on Brandon Nimmo's two-out single. J.D. Davis hit a sacrifice fly in the sixth.

Luke Voit hit a three-run homer for San Diego off Drew Smith with two outs in the eighth, his fifth. The ball bounced off the top off the wall in left-center and back onto the filed, and Voit paused at second. After an umpire review, it was ruled a homer.

Red Sox 1, Angels 0

In Anaheim, Calif., Michael Wacha pitched a three-hitter for his first shutout in five years and streaking Boston handed Los Angeles its 12th straight defeat. Christian Vázquez had an RBI single in the second inning and the Red Sox won their fifth in a row.

The Angels matched their longest slide in a single season, last done to end the 1988 schedule.

Wacha (4-1), who hadn't worked into the eighth inning since 2018, threw 105 pitches for his second career complete game in 190 starts and first since a three-hit shutout for St. Louis at the New York Mets on July 18, 2017.

It was the first complete-game shutout by a Boston pitcher in three years. The veteran right-hander outpitched Noah Syndergaard (4-4), who went six strong innings for Los Angeles, and lowered his ERA to 1.99 in his first season with the Red Sox.

Angels star Mike Trout had a first-inning single off Wacha to end an 0-for-26 drought, the longest hitless run of his career.

Mariners 7, Astros 4

In Houston, Mariners manager Scott Servais was ejected for his role in a benches-clearing scuffle in the ninth inning of Seattle's win, a game in which Cal Raleigh had a career-high four RBIs and Julio Rodriguez hit a late two-run shot.

With two outs in the ninth, Houston's Héctor Neris plunked Ty France in the back. Players and coaches on both sides began chirping at each other, and Servais led the way as Seattle's bench emptied to confront the Astros near home plate. Servais and Astros first base coach Omar Lopez were ejected, and both benches were given warnings.

Mariners starter Robbie Ray (5-6) allowed eight hits and four runs — three earned — while walking three in five innings. Diego Castillo pitched a scoreless ninth for his third save.

Houston starter Cristian Javier (3-3) struggled, allowing six hits and five runs in 3 2/3 innings after entering the game 3-0 with a 0.40 ERA in six career games, with three starts against the Mariners.

Reds 7, Diamondbacks 0, 7 innings

In Cincinnati, Hunter Greene allowed a bunt single to begin the game and then faced the minimum through seven innings, retiring his final 20 batters as Cincinnati defeated Arizona in a rain-shortened game.

Brandon Drury hit his 10th homer of the season. Kyle Farmer and Tyler Stephenson each had a two-run double.

The start was delayed 13 minutes due to showers, then a larger line of storms moved in and halted play with two outs in the bottom of the seventh. After another 46-minute delay, the game was called.

The second overall pick in the 2017 draft, Greene (3-7) yielded a bunt single down the third base line by Daulton Varsho to begin the game. Varsho was caught stealing to complete a double play after Josh Varsho struck out. Greene never permitted another baserunner.

Madison Bumgarner (2-5) threw 30 pitches in the first inning, but the Reds managed just one run and left the bases loaded. The veteran left-hander needed 108 pitches to get through five innings.

Blue Jays 8, Royals 0

In Kansas City, Bo Bichette hit one of three Toronto home runs and five pitchers combined on a two-hitter against Kansas City.

Ross Stripling (2-1) earned the win as he allowed just one hit over five innings, matching his season high. He struck out two and didn't walk a batter. Stripling pitched more than four innings for just the second time this season. Stripling, who made his sixth start, has been used out of the bullpen eight times.

Bichette's home run was the first Toronto hit of the night after the game was delayed 2:05 because of weather.

Daniel Lynch (2-5) took the loss. He allowed six runs on six hits, with two walks and four strikeouts in 5 2/3 innings.

Dodgers open with record $310M tax payroll, would owe $47M

NEW YORK (AP)—The Los Angeles Dodgers opened the season with an all-time high $310.6 million payroll for purposes of the luxury tax and are on track to pay a record tax of nearly $47 million, according to figures compiled by Major League Baseball and obtained by The Associated Press.

Five teams exceeded the $230 million threshold as of opening day, which if unchanged by the season's end would be one shy of the most, in 2016.

After adding Freddie Freeman and reaching a big one-year deal with Trea Turner, Los Angeles was the only team to exceed the new fourth threshold, the so-called Cohen Tax named after New York Mets owner Steven Cohen. But the Dodgers' payroll would drop by about $28.1 million if the domestic violence suspension of pitcher Trevor Bauer is upheld by an arbitrator. The Dodgers' payroll included $34 million for Bauer, the average of his $102 million, three-year contract.

The Mets, in their second season since Cohen bought the team, were second at $289.3 million — $667,278 below the Cohen Tax. That left them on track for a tax payment of just under $22.5 million after adding pitcher Max Scherzer, center fielder Starling Marte, outfielder Mark Canha and All-Star infielder Eduardo Escobar.

The Yankees were third at $261.4 million, which would cause a tax of $7.6 million.

Philadelphia, which fired manager Joe Girardi on Friday following a poor start, was fourth at $233.1 million, on track to pay a tax of roughly $629,000, Boston was fifth at $232.3 million, which would result in a tax of about $466,000.

San Diego, the only team other than the Dodgers to pay tax last year, began this season $694,982 below the initial $230 million threshold.

Luxury tax payrolls include average annual values of all players on 40-man rosters plus just over $16 million per team for benefits and $1.67 million for each club's share of the new $50 million pool for pre-arbitration players. Figures also include money owed released players, option buyouts and cash transactions.

Totals change throughout the season as trades and roster moves are made, and the tax is billed based on the final figure in December. For players remaining in salary arbitration, MLB included club offers in its payroll figures.

Under the collective bargaining agreement reached in March following a 99-day lockout, this year's four tax thresholds are $230 million, $250 million, $270 million and $290 million.

First-time offenders pay 20% on the amount above the first threshold, 32% above the second, 62.5% above the third and 80% above the fourth.

As a repeat offender, the Dodgers pay 30% above the first, 42% above the second, 75% above the third and 90% above the fourth.

Los Angeles paid tax each season from 2013-17 and its total bill through last year reached $182 million since the luxury tax began in 2003. That's second only to the Yankees' $348 million bill.

If the Dodgers owe tax for 2023, they would pay 50% above next year's first threshold of $233 million, 62% above $253 million, 95% above $273 million and 110% above $293 million.

Until now, the previous high for a luxury tax payroll was the Dodgers' $297.9 million in 2015, which resulted in a record tax of just under $43.6 million.

A team's tax rates reset at the lowest level after it drops below the initial threshold in any year.

Four teams had luxury tax payrolls under $100 million: Oakland ($64.8 million), Pittsburgh ($73.5 million), Baltimore ($79.9 million) and Cleveland ($91.2 million).

Also this week, the players' association issued its 2021 salary study, which showed the average baseball salary dropped 10.2% from 2017 through last season.

The union calculated the 2021 average at $3,679,335, down 5.2% from what 2020 would have been at full salaries had the season not been shortened by the coronavirus pandemic.

After rising from $3.97 million in 2016 to a record at just under $4.1 million in the first year of a new collective bargaining agreement, the average declined by $1,500 in 2018, and dropped to $4.05 million in 2019. The 2020 average would have been $3.89 million had a full schedule been played but was cut to $1.6 million by prorated salaries during the 60-game season.

The union usually issues its salary report in December but the 2021 edition was delayed while staff was engaged in collective bargaining.

Figures are based on 2021 salaries, earned bonuses and prorated shares of signing bonuses for 1,070 players on 26-man rosters and injured lists as of Aug. 31. MLB, using a slightly different methodology, calculated the average at $3,579,341.

A study by The Associated Press found this year's opening day average was up 5.9% to $4.4 million, using expanded opening-day rosters and midpoints for players remaining in arbitration. The average declines over the course of a season as veterans are released and replaced by younger players with lower salaries.

Celtics hope protecting ball better will protect home court

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—If the Boston Celtics want to do a better job of protecting home court than they did in the last two rounds, they will need to start doing amuch better job of protecting the ball.

Sloppy ball handling once again proved costly to the Celtics, whose propensity for committing turnovers has been a recurring problem during this playoff run. Boston gave it away 19 times in a 107-88 loss to the Golden State Warriors in Game 2 of the NBA Finals on Sunday night to tie the series at one game apiece.

"It's just kind of as simple as we've just got to take care of the ball," star Jayson Tatum said. "We've done it, and we're a really good team when we take care of the ball. But we have those lapses where we, snowball effect, we pile on turnovers and dig ourselves into a hole."

The Celtics managed to shoot their way out of their turnover woes in the first half of Game 2 by making 10 of 19 3-pointers to stay close to the Warriors.

But when the shots stopped falling in the third quarter, the turnovers were too much to overcome, sending the Celtics home disappointed despite a Game 1 victory.

AP

Boston Celtics forward Jayson Tatum (0) loses the ball while being defended by Golden State Warriors forward Draymond Green (23) and guard Stephen Curry during the second half of Game 2 of basketball's NBA Finals in San Francisco, Sunday, June 5, 2022.

"For whatever reason, the previous series that happened to us. On our wins, we didn't turn it over; on our losses, we turned it over excessively," forward Al Horford said. "It's something that we'll have to look at this game individually and just see how we can be better. I know we can prevent a lot of those, and in order for us to be in a better chance of winning, we have to cut those down."

The Celtics have committed an average of nearly four more turnovers per game, leading to nine more points per game for the opponent in their losses compared to their wins.

Boston is 1-5 this postseason when committing at least 16 turnovers, compared to 12-2 when giving it up 15 times or fewer.

The problems started early Sunday night with Boston giving it away seven times in the first quarter, leading to 13 points for Golden State to offset a fast shooting start by the Celtics.

There were four more turnovers in the second quarter and then five in the third that led to 11 more points as Golden State outscored Boston 35-14 in the period. The Celtics made one fewer basket than turnovers but coach Ime Udoka pointed to the first-half sloppiness as the major issue.

"We had our opportunities," Udoka said. "Came out, jumped out up nine early. Then turnovers started happening. Let them back in the game. Then the offense wasn't as crisp with the ball movement and passing. Like I said, 11 of our turnovers were live ball turnovers, nine of them out of steals. So got to be better in that category."

There were plenty of culprits, with Marcus Smart committing five turnovers, Tatum four and Derrick White three. Horford and Jaylen Brown added two apiece as Udoka said his players were too often looking for fouls instead of being strong with the ball.

"For us, that was a little disappointing, to give up 33 points off of 19 turnovers," he said. "That's kind of been a constant theme in the playoffs. When that happens, we're in trouble."

Turnovers haven't been the only recurring problem for Boston during these playoffs as the Celtics also have struggled to protect home court.

They overcame losses in Games 1 and 5 in the second round against the Bucks by winning Game 6 in Milwaukee to stave off elimination before taking Game 7 back at home.

Then they lost twice at home to the Heat in the Eastern Conference finals, including a potential Game 6 clincher that forced them to win Game 7 at Miami to advance.

Now they face a Warriors team that has set an NBA record by winning at least one road game in all 26 playoff series during the Stephen Curry era.

"Just playing with a sense of urgency, I think," Tatum said when asked about the key to being better at home. "Human nature plays a part when you go on the road. Obviously it's a tough environment. I feel like recently we've kind of relaxed at home. Whether we thought because we had home-court advantage, we came out a little more relaxed."

Danny Ainge says Jazz 'desperately' wanted Snyder to stay

SALT LAKE CITY (AP)—The Utah Jazz face an unexpected search for a new coach.

Utah was prepared to enter next season with Quin Snyder at the helm until the head coach unexpectedly stepped down after eight seasons. The two sides had recently discussed an extension with Snyder, who still had two years left on his contract. They did not reach an agreement before Snyder decided to step away.

"We have spent the last few weeks talking, Quin and I, a lot about a lot of different things. And I think it's pretty clear, we desperately wanted him to stay," team CEO Danny Ainge said during a news conference Monday, a day after Snyder announced he is leaving. "And at the same time, I've walked away from coaching and I walked away from being a general manager after 18 years in Boston, and so I trust that Quin knows more what's best for him and his family, much more than we do."

Snyder went 372-264 with the Jazz, his winning percentage of .585 ranking as 18th-best among NBA coaches who have worked for at least that long. He's one of only two coaches to have a winning record with the Jazz, Jerry Sloan being the other. The regular-season success under Snyder never translated to the playoffs. The Jazz were 21-30 in postseason games under him.

AP

Utah Jazz head coach Quin Snyder looks on in the first half of Game 4 of an NBA basketball first-round playoff series, against the Dallas Mavericks, April 23, 2022, in Salt Lake City.

"It was time," Snyder said. "Time for the Jazz to move forward. Time for me to move forward. It just made the most sense to me."

Ainge will now undertake his third coaching search as an NBA executive.

He hired Doc Rivers and Brad Stevens during his 18-year tenure in the Celtics front office. Rivers led Boston to an NBA title in 2008 and returned to the NBA Finals in 2010. Stevens led the Celtics to the Eastern Conference finals three times in four seasons before succeeding Ainge in the front office.

"There's a lot of names I know and I'm familiar with in the coaching world," Ainge said. "This will be much different than the two previous and probably more thorough."

Team owner Ryan Smith said there is no timetable for making a hire. The team is not feeling pressure to finish the search before the upcoming NBA draft.

"We're going to take our time," Smith said. "Got to get it right."

Whoever succeeds Snyder will be Utah's fourth head coach in 34 seasons. The Jazz have had just six head coaches since moving to Salt Lake City from New Orleans in 1979.

Smith's ideal successor will be a coach capable of building on the foundation Snyder laid rather than doing a complete rebuild.

"There's not really a playbook when it comes to this," Smith said. "I'm super fortunate to be in an organization that Quin has helped build up. He's left this organization a heck of a lot better than he found it. But more than that, he's built a foundation that we can go build from."

Though Ainge said he knows Snyder is "going to be coaching somewhere else in the near future, next year probably," Snyder declined to say how soon he plans to take on another coaching job.

"That hasn't been on my mind at all. Just been focused on this," Snyder said. "I don't know what I'm going to do next year as far as coaching next year or anything along those lines."

Whatever Nadal's future holds, his legacy's secure

By HOWARD FENDRICH
AP TENNIS WRITER

PARIS (AP)—Rafael Nadal's status for Wimbledon is in doubt because of a chronic problem with his left foot — as is his future in tennis. What's secure, no matter what happens now, is his legacy.

Nadal got through the French Open, he explained after a dominating 6-3, 6-3, 6-0 victory over Casper Ruud in Sunday's final earned a 14th championship at Roland Garros and 22nd Grand Slam title overall, thanks to the help of a series of numbing injections in his foot.

That, he says, was a one-time deal.

"I don't want to put myself in that position again," Nadal said after becoming, at age 36, the oldest champion in the history of a clay-court tournament that was first held in 1925. "Can happen once. But no, it's not a philosophy of life that I want to follow."

And he allowed a little insight into what does make him tick.

AP

Spain's Rafael Nadal returns the ball to Norway's Casper Ruud during their final match of the French Open tennis tournament at the Roland Garros stadium Sunday, June 5, 2022 in Paris.

It's not, he said, as he's said before, an all-consuming desire to finish with more major trophies than the other members of the so-called Big Three of men's tennis, Roger Federer and Novak Djokovic. (Nadal currently stands two ahead of his rivals, who both are at 20.)

"It's not about being the best of the history. It's not about the records. It's about: I like what I do. I like to play tennis. And I like the competition," Nadal said.

"What drives me to keep going is the passion for the game, to live moments that stay inside me forever," he added, "and play in front of the best crowds in the world and the best stadiums."

So while he wants to be able to keep going, and would appreciate the chance to play at the All England Club, where the grass-court Slam he has won twice begins three weeks from Monday, he'll only do so if his body permits.

Nadal, who brought a doctor with him to Paris, is going to spend the next week trying new treatments, hoping to find a way to ease the pain in his foot.

UNDERDOG

From Page 20

training for," said NMIBF president James Lee.

He also asked the players to put all distractions aside and just concentrate on representing the CNMI as best they can.

"Last thing I have to say is I personally like being the underdog whenever I compete because I have nothing to lose. I'm not the one who's supposed to be pressured. When you guys go down there, just play your game. You know who you are. We—the federation and the coaches—trust each and every one of you. We believe in you guys," Lee added.

NMIBF vice president Dave Apatang said he witnessed first hand as assistant coach of the women's team how everyone worked hard this past year to prepare for competition.

"I want you guys to take a moment and embrace the feeling of accomplishment. If those nerves do creep up and I'm sure it will as you are sitting alone packing up, just remember what a player once told us: It's not nerves, it's excitement…let's take that determined mindset to the games and represent the CNMI. We are proud of you all, all of you. We will be cheering our lungs out as you attempt to bring home the gold. Go Team NMI!"

Women's team captain Madeleine Alegre thanked sponsors, supporters, friends, family, and the NMIBF for supporting them on their journey this past year.

"Without all of you we wouldn't have progressed this far as a team and as individuals. Everyone has had a hand in our growth and we thank you for trusting us in representing our home and we can make all of you very proud!" she said.

Men's team captain Coby Santos echoed Alegre when he also thanked NMIBF for supporting the men's and women's teams.

"We'll try to do our best to represent the NMI and hopefully we can bring home the medals!" he said.

Northern Marianas Sports Association president Jerry Tan also sent a video message to the players and coaches as he's currently in Tokyo, Japan for business.

"I'm so happy that the NMI basketball team is making an important trip to Guam to play in the FIBA Micro Cup. Despite not being one of the nine sports in the Pacific Mini Games, I'm happy that basketball is still competing at a very high level this June."

He also wished both teams good luck in their four-day competition in Guam.

"For Team NMI, the men's and the women's [teams], the coaches, officials, as well as players who've put in many, many hours of training, practice, and made all the sacrifices in order to prepare for this tournament, good luck in Guam and fight hard for the NMI!"

Aside from Santos, making up the CNMI Men's National Basketball Team are Donovan Brennan, Eli Aughenbaugh, Chioni Dela Cruz, Greg Sablan, Leo Naraja, Shane Deleon Guerrero, Lucio Aldan, Frankie Satur, Jeff Castro, and Sir Lashu Dela Cruz.

Along with Alegre, the CNMI Women's National Basketball Team is made up of Marlene Lumabi, Michelle and Richelle Kautz, Kaia Travilla, Azriel Fatialofa, Fiona Bucalig, Angellyn Roligat, Destiny Pangilinan, Gabrielle Race, and E'Anna and Ky'Sonne Won.

The men's head coach is Joseph "Joe" Diaz and he's being assisted by Keith Nabors and Sha Aina Mendoza.

For the women, Catherine Attao-Toves serves as head head coach with the aforementioned Apatang and Vinalyn Simram serving as her coaching lieutenants. Ethan Kwan is the teams' manager.

The 2022 FIBA Micronesian Cup kicks off tomorrow at 12:15pm with the men's game between Palau and the Federated States of Micronesia. It will be followed by the 2:15pm game pitting the FSM women's team against their counterparts from Palau.

The CNMI women's will play next at 4:45pm when they take on the women's team of Guam followed by the CNMI men's-Guam men's tussle at 7pm.

The next day on Thursday, the CNMI men's and women's teams will battle Palau, while teams from the FSM will duke it out against Guam.

In the tournament's penultimate day on Friday, the CNMI will take on FSM and Palau will face Guam. The Top 2 teams will then clash in the championship game on Saturday with the No. 3 and No. 4 teams squaring off for the battle for third place.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	39	15	.722	—
Toronto	32	22	.593	7
Tampa Bay	31	23	.574	8
Boston	28	27	.509	11½
Baltimore	23	33	.411	17

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Minnesota	32	24	.571	—
Cleveland	24	25	.490	4½
Chicago	25	27	.481	5
Detroit	21	33	.389	10
Kansas City	17	36	.321	13½

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	35	20	.636	—
Los Angeles	27	29	.482	8½
Texas	25	28	.472	9
Seattle	25	30	.455	10
Oakland	20	36	.357	15½

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	38	19	.667	—
Atlanta	28	27	.509	9
Philadelphia	25	29	.463	11½
Miami	22	30	.423	13½
Washington	21	35	.375	16½

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	33	23	.589	—
St. Louis	32	23	.582	½
Pittsburgh	24	28	.462	7
Chicago	23	32	.418	9½
Cincinnati	19	35	.352	13

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Los Angeles	35	19	.648	—
San Diego	33	22	.600	2½
San Francisco	29	24	.547	5½
Arizona	26	30	.464	10
Colorado	23	31	.426	12

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

HIGH

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who is gonna show up and sometimes there are little surprises."

The NMSA Hall of Famer said that the morale of the team is pretty good and they are expecting to medal.

"Our primary goal is for everybody to have the best performance they can have, have everybody be healthy and you know, what will happen will happen, but we expect to win some medals."

For first-timer Colin Ramsey, suiting up for the CNMI in the Mini Games is a dream come true.

"Representing the NMI is something that I've really been looking forward to doing. I'm ready and I'm proud to represent the NMI."

Bobby Cruz, who missed the Apia Games three years ago on account of a stolen passport, said he's looking forward to finally representing the CNMI this time on home soil.

"I'm excited to have fun, you know, it's an honor to represent your country and I think you go out there and you compete and you do your best…you give whatever you can and that's all you can do. I think we have a lot of potential to do well collectively, so we're excited!"

Ramsey said that when the American Memorial Park tennis court closed, the team did their best to maintain their training, with four training sessions per week and used whatever courts they could find.

"We are doing the best that we can, with the time that we are given," said the Boston University student.

The AMP tennis courts only reopened late last month following resurfacing for the Mini Games.

Race also noted the advantage of playing on home soil with the overwhelming support of fans.

"I hope that we have hundreds of people coming out to enjoy watching our NMI players play in these matches and to cheer them on. And we hope not to disappoint our Northern Marianas fans."

The rest of the team is made up of junior players Hye Jin Elliot and Serin Chung.

Race is also organizing the tennis event in the Mini Games and noted the immense amount of work being put into the sporting event. He also acknowledged the people working behind the scenes, such as tennis sports manager Lydia Tan and all those laboring to make the Games a reality.

A total of 17 island nations will compete in tennis in the Mini Games led by the NMI, Fiji, Guam, Nauru, New Caledonia, Solomon Islands, and Tahiti with eight players each. PNG, Samoa, and Vanuatu will be sending seven apiece, while the rest of the countries taking part in tennis are Cook Islands (2 players), FSM (3), Kiribati (5), Tonga (6), Tuvalu (3), Vanuatu (3), and Wallis & Futuna (3).

Tennis will be played from June 17 top 25 at the AMP tennis courts and the Pacific Islands Club tennis courts in San Antonio. ***(Chrystal Marino)***

INCENTIVES

From Page 20

encourage us to do well at our job. Why shouldn't the athletes be incentivized?"

Peter, who represented the CNMI in golf in the 2019 Pacific Games in Samoa, also knows a thing or two about the psyche of athletes.

"These athletes have been through a lot. Many of them work full-time jobs and go to practice early before work and then after work. Their discipline and their pride in the Marianas is second to none."

He added that it's about the process that leads to their competition that shapes their physical and mental habits and their character as well.

"They deserve the best since they've survived the worst. If they have been incentivized to perform with excellence, I'll remind you that every Nobel Prize winner receives $1 million for their work and for their accomplishment. 'Incentives' is not a four-letter word. I thank the governor for thinking about the athletes who will be representing each of us and our amazing community. Our athletes have earned everything they receive including our gratitude and applause and medals and prizes," said Peter.

The MGOC official also said that incentivizing top-performing athletes in the Mini Games is pretty much in line with what the Torres administration did when it started the tourism bubble with South Korea.

'I'm happy that the governor is thinking about our athletes with everything else that's going on including trying to incentivize travel to Saipan for citizens from neighboring countries in order to jump start our economy. In the same spirit, he's saying to the athletes that just like at work, there will be a bonus for any athlete who demonstrates extraordinary performance. I'm thrilled that he's participating in his own unique way."

Northern Marianas National Paddle Sports Federation president and CNMI National Outrigger Canoe Team coach Justin H. Andrew also thanked Torres for the incentives he laid out for athletes who medal.

"Seeing this, I'm sure our athletes will work extra hard not only to make Team NMI and our local community proud but to also have a shot at some extra cash," he said.

Ditto for CNMI National Triathlon Team manager Jay Diyco

"It's an extra motivation for the athletes during the Games," he added.

Peter again thanked Torres not only for promising $5,000 to gold medalists, $2,500 for silver medalists, $1,000 for bronze medalists, and $1,000 for gold medalists for team events, but also for green-lighting the hosting of the Mini Games after initially balking due to the devastation brought by super typhoons Yutu and Soudelor and then afterwards increasing the CNMI government's financial commitment.

"Remember, the Mini Games committee asked for $2.5 million for these Games and the governor said here's $4 million. It's important for us to acknowledge his commitment to sports in these islands and to our fiduciary commitment to the Pacific Games Council that we have membership in."

Escobar hits for cycle, has 6 RBIs as Mets beat Padres, 11-5

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Whatever Nadal's future holds, his legacy's secure

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'Underdog' NMI teams off to Micro Cup

MARK RABAGO
The CNMI men's and women's national basketball teams pose for a group photo during a send-off event Monday night at the NMSA conference room inside the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The CNMI men's and women's national basketball teams flew to Guam yesterday morning to compete in the 2022 FIBA Micronesian Cup set starting today at the UOG Calvo Fieldhouse.

But before leaving for the neighboring U.S. territory, the players were treated to inspirational messages from officials of the Northern Mariana Islands Basketball Federation Monday night during a send-off event at the NMSA conference room inside the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

"There's not really much to say but just go out there and play with your hearts, right. Treat every minute, every quarter as the last quarter of your last game. Because that's what most of you guys have been

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Expectations high for netters in Mini Games

CHRYSTAL MARINO
CNMI national tennis players Bobby Cruz, left, and Colin Ramsey pose during a break in their practice session for the upcoming Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022 at the Crowne Plaza tennis courts.

As the defending gold medalist in the Pacific Mini Games, expectations are high for the CNMI National Tennis Team in the upcoming Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022.

"We'll be seeded first and it's up to us to try and live up to our seeding and defend our gold medal from the last Games," said NMI national tennis head coach Jeff Race in an interview with *Saipan Tribune*.

Although disappointed Georgia Tech standout Carol Lee will not be able to take part in the Mini Games, he feels pretty confident as they still have college players Asia Raulerson, Isabel Herras, and Robbie Schorr and pro-circuit tennis player Colin Sinclair, who won gold in the 2019 Pacific Games in Samoa in 2019.

"We should have the best men's play on the field, in Colin Sinclair. He's a very strong player. Robbie Schorr is a fantastic wingman for him and I think that our team is pretty well prepared and very enthusiastic. Our Top 2 women have just come off of very strong seasons with their universities, so we know they have been training hard as part of their training in their NCAA programs," said Race.

When asked about which island nation would give them a challenge, Race said he is expecting a strong team from Papua New Guinea as well as the "traditionally" stronger teams like Tahiti, New Caledonia, and Samoa.

"You just never quite know

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'Incentives will serve as extra motivation'

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Peter

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' announcement of cash incentives for athletes and teams that medal in this month's Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022 has been welcomed with open arms by athletes, coaches, and officials involved in the quadrennial event.

Mini Games Organizing Committee chair Marco Peter said since Torres' challenge he has talked to several athletes and all of them are "pumped up" to do their best in the Mini Games set from June 17 to 25.

"Incentives work to motivate people. Salaries, raises, bonuses, etc. are incentives to

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